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Prevent & Radicalisation Policy

Commitment to Safeguarding

Best Practice Network (BPN) is dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment for all students and staff. We recognise the critical role education plays in safeguarding individuals from radicalisation and extremism, in line with the UK Government's **Prevent Strategy**.

Prevent Strategy Overview

The **Prevent Strategy** is a key part of the UK's counter-terrorism efforts, aiming to:

- Tackle the ideological causes of terrorism.
- Protect vulnerable individuals from being drawn into extremist ideologies.
- Provide early intervention and support to those at risk.

Associated Policies

- Digital and Online Safeguarding Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Best Practice Network's Commitment to the Prevent Duty

Under the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**, all UK education providers, including Best Practice Network, have a legal duty to help prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism. This **Prevent Duty** forms a key part of the government's **CONTEST counter-terrorism strategy**, which focuses on four key areas:

1. **Prevent** – Stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
2. **Pursue** – Disrupting and stopping terrorist attacks.
3. **Protect** – Strengthening the UK's defences against terrorist threats.
4. **Prepare** – Mitigating the impact of attacks that cannot be prevented.

Understanding the Current Terrorist Threat in the UK

The UK's terrorist threat landscape is now dominated by **lone actors or small groups operating independently of structured networks**, making them more difficult to identify and disrupt (HM Government, *CONTEST 2023*).

Key Trends in UK Terrorism (2018–Present)

- **Islamist extremism** remains the most significant domestic threat, responsible for:
 - **67% of terrorist attacks** since 2018.
 - **Approximately 75% of MI5's counter-terrorism caseload.**
 - **64% of those in custody for terrorism-related offences** (Home Office, *Terrorism in Great Britain*, 2023).

Changing Ideological Influences

While **al-Qa'ida and Daesh (ISIS)** remain influential, their direct links to UK-based extremists have weakened. Instead, radicalisation is increasingly driven by:

- **Online propaganda** and fragmented extremist narratives.
- **Grievance-based ideologies**, including anti-Western and anti-democratic rhetoric.
- **Proscribed groups** such as Hamas and Hezbollah, alongside newer extremist movements (HM Government, *Independent Review of Prevent*, 2023).

This shift has led to a **wider range of ideological influences**, blending traditional extremist views with more unconventional beliefs.

Accessing the Full CONTEST Strategy

The updated **CONTEST 2023** strategy outlines the UK's approach to counter-terrorism and can be accessed here:

 **Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST 2023)**

Additional Resources

- **Home Office (2023)** – *Terrorism in Great Britain: Statistics and Analysis*
- **HM Government (2023)** – *Independent Review of Prevent*
- **Educate Against Hate** – Government-backed resources for schools and colleges.

Roles and Responsibilities

BPN's Responsibilities

As an education provider, BPN upholds its **statutory duty** under the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015** by:

1. **Risk Assessment** – Regularly evaluating potential risks related to radicalisation within our programmes.
2. **Staff Training** – Ensuring all staff understand Prevent, recognise signs of vulnerability, and know how to escalate concerns.

3. **Student Support** – Promoting British values (democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance) through our curriculum and culture.
4. **Reporting Procedures** – Maintaining clear protocols for reporting concerns to the designated safeguarding lead and, where necessary, local authorities or the **Channel programme**.

Collaborative Approach

We work closely with partners, stakeholders, and statutory agencies to ensure a coordinated response to safeguarding. By fostering an environment of respect and open dialogue, we empower learners to challenge extremist views constructively.

Whistleblower Protection

Staff acting in good faith to report concerns will not face disciplinary action, even if the concern is unsubstantiated after investigation.

Best Practice Network's Prevent Duty Objectives

As a leading training provider, Best Practice Network is committed to upholding the **Prevent Duty** under the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**. Our key objectives are:

1. Training and Awareness

- Ensure **all employees** complete **Prevent Duty training**, as mandated by their leaders and managers.
- Equip staff with the knowledge to recognise signs of radicalisation and extremism.
- Provide **regular updates** on emerging threats and safeguarding best practices.

2. Safeguarding Referrals

- Ensure all employees understand **when and how** to escalate concerns about learners or colleagues to the **designated safeguarding officer**.
- Maintain clear reporting procedures in line with **Channel programme** guidance.
- Foster a culture where safeguarding concerns are taken seriously and acted upon promptly.

3. Promoting British Values

We actively embed the **fundamental British values** into our policies, training, and daily practice:

- **Democracy** – Encouraging participation, debate, and respect for democratic processes.
- **Rule of law** – Emphasising accountability and justice within our organisation and beyond.
- **Individual liberty** – Supporting personal freedoms while safeguarding against harm.
- **Mutual respect and tolerance** – Celebrating diversity and challenging discriminatory behaviour.

Our Commitment in Action

- **Prevent training** integrated into staff inductions and CPD.
- **Robust safeguarding protocols** aligned with DfE and Home Office guidelines.

- **Partnerships with experts** to ensure our approach remains effective and up to date.

By fulfilling these objectives, we contribute to a safer education sector and a more resilient society.

Scope of the Prevent Duty Policy

This policy applies to **all staff, learners, and partners** associated with Best Practice Network, including:

- **Permanent and temporary employees** (trainers, assessors, support staff).
- **Learners** across all programmes, including apprenticeships and funded courses.
- **Subcontracted training providers** and their personnel.
- **Visitors, contractors, and third-party suppliers** engaged in delivery or services.

Key Coverage

- **Prevent Duty Training** – Mandatory for all staff and subcontractors.
- **Safeguarding Referrals** – Clear escalation routes for concerns about radicalisation.
- **British Values Integration** – Embedded in curriculum design, delivery, and organisational culture.
- **Compliance Monitoring** – Regular audits of subcontractors to ensure adherence.

Accountability

- **Leadership team** oversees implementation.
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** manages referrals and training compliance.
- **Partners & Subcontractors** must evidence alignment with this policy.

This policy operates in conjunction with our:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy


Key Safeguarding Contacts

Best Practice Network's **Designated Safeguarding Team** is available to support staff, learners, and partners with any Prevent Duty or safeguarding concerns:

Designated Safeguarding Officers


Sian Marsh

 sianmarsh@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk

 **07795 683297** (Out of hours: **07799 072872**)


Chris Garcia

 chrisgarcia@bestpracticenet.co.uk


 07584 310068

General Safeguarding Enquiries

 safeguarding@bestpracticenet.co.uk

 0117 920 9200

Online Resources

 Best Practice Network Safeguarding Hub

When to Contact the Safeguarding Team

- Concerns about **radicalisation or extremism** (Prevent Duty).
- Risks to learner/staff **welfare or safety**.
- Support needed with **safeguarding referrals** (e.g., Channel programme).

Urgent Concerns

For **immediate risk**, contact:

 **Police: 999** (Emergency) / **101** (Non-emergency)

 **Counter-Terrorism Hotline: 0800 789 321**

Leadership and Governance: Prevent Duty Commitment

Strategic Oversight

Prevent is an integral component of Best Practice Network's (BPN) safeguarding framework, with accountability at the highest levels:

- **Advisory Board Engagement:** Prevent is a standing agenda item at **BPN Advisory meetings**, ensuring regular review and escalation of risks.
- **Director-Level Leadership:** A **nominated Director** oversees Prevent implementation, reporting directly to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).
- **SLT Accountability:** The SLT actively monitors Prevent compliance, aligning it with broader safeguarding goals (*Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales, 2023*).

Policy Integration

Prevent is embedded across BPN's operational frameworks, including:

- **Safeguarding Policy:** Explicit linkage to radicalisation risks and referral pathways.
- **IT & Digital Policies:** Monitoring online safety (e.g., extremist content on social learning platforms).

- **Social Media Guidelines:** Mitigating exposure to harmful narratives (*Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023*).

Governance Actions

Responsibility	Action
Programme Board	Quarterly reviews of Prevent referrals and training compliance.
Nominated Director	Annual Prevent risk assessment + updates to SLT.
SLT	Ensure Prevent is resourced (training, DSL support).

Alignment with National Standards

BPN's approach reflects:

- ♦ *Prevent Duty Guidance (2023)* – “Protection from radicalisation should mirror wider safeguarding.”
- ♦ *Ofsted/ESFA Expectations* – Demonstrable leadership engagement in Prevent

Staff Training on the Prevent Duty

Mandatory Prevent Training

All Best Practice Network staff receive **certified Prevent training** to ensure compliance with the *Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015*. This includes:

- **Initial Training:** Delivered via **SEG Learning** as part of onboarding.
- **Annual Refreshers:** Incorporated into **SEG Essentials training** to reinforce knowledge.
- **Government-Approved eLearning:** Recommended supplementary training via the Home Office's [Prevent Duty eLearning Portal](#).

Key Training Components

Staff are trained to:

- ✓ **Recognise signs of radicalisation** (e.g., behavioural changes, extremist rhetoric).
- ✓ **Understand the Prevent Duty's role in safeguarding** and how it aligns with BPN policies.
- ✓ **Follow referral protocols** for concerns (escalation to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead**).
- ✓ **Apply British values** in teaching and learner interactions.

Why Early Intervention Matters

- **Prevent works best when risks are identified early**—before extremist ideologies solidify.
- **Channel referrals rely on staff vigilance** to safeguard vulnerable individuals.
- **Timely action can divert individuals from harm** through mentoring and support.

Monitoring & Compliance

- **Training records** are maintained to ensure 100% staff compliance and update training is required on an annual basis.
- **Updates are provided** as threats evolve (e.g., emerging extremist trends).

Radicalisation Risk Indicators: Early Warning Signs

Contributory Factors	Vulnerabilities	Key Indicators
Rejection by peers/family/faith group	Social isolation	Withdrawn behaviour
Pressure from extremist influences	Susceptibility to manipulation	Sudden change in social circles
Poverty, disadvantage, social exclusion	Identity confusion	Drop in engagement levels
Family conflict over religion/politics	Unsettled home life	Aggressive defence of extremist views
Recent religious conversion	Need to belong/fit in	Preaching extremist ideologies
Exposure to extremist material	Influence from harmful media	Possession of extremist literature
Bullying or victimisation	Low self-esteem	Sudden changes in appearance/dress
Trauma (personal/global events)	Desire for revenge	Expressing justification of violence
Academic/work disengagement	Seeking purpose/direction	Obsession with extremist figures/groups

Engagement with external partners on the prevent duty

Employer Awareness & Collaboration

Best Practice Network ensures all employer partners understand their shared Prevent Duty responsibilities through:

- **Formal Communications:** Programme Directors explicitly outline Prevent obligations in:
 - Employer onboarding packs
 - Partnership agreements
 - Annual safeguarding updates
- **Dedicated Employer Briefings:** Regular sessions on recognising radicalisation risks in apprentices/workplace settings.

Strategic Partnerships for Prevent Delivery

We collaborate with key stakeholders to strengthen safeguarding:

- **Local Authority Prevent Coordinators:** Established referral pathways for Channel interventions.
- **Police Counter-Terrorism Units:** Joint workshops on emerging threats (e.g., online radicalisation).
- **FE/Sector Bodies:** Active participation in regional Prevent networks to share best practices.

Learner Engagement, Safety and Curriculum

Best Practice Network actively embeds the **Prevent Duty** within its educational programmes to **build learner resilience, challenge extremism, and promote British values**.

Core British Values in Curriculum & Practice

We foster a safe and inclusive learning environment by reinforcing:

- ✓ **Democracy** – Encouraging participation in Learner Voice surveys, feedback mechanisms, and representation.
- ✓ **Rule of Law** – Teaching legal rights and responsibilities within apprenticeship frameworks.
- ✓ **Mutual Respect & Tolerance** – Celebrating diversity through Equality & Diversity (E&D) training and discussions.
- ✓ **Individual Liberty** – Supporting personal development while safeguarding against harmful influences.

How We Deliver This

- **Embedded in Learning Resources:**
 - Prevent awareness integrated into **Safeguarding and E&D modules**.
 - Case studies on extremism and critical thinking exercises.
- **Apprentice Reviews:**
 - 1:1 discussions to assess wellbeing and resilience to radicalisation risks.
- **Learner Voice Initiatives:**
 - Surveys and forums to empower learners in shaping a tolerant, democratic learning culture.
- **Safe Learning Spaces:**
 - Policies to monitor and address extremist rhetoric in online classrooms and forums.

Building Resilience Against Radicalisation

We equip learners with:

- ◆ **Critical Thinking Skills** – Challenging extremist narratives constructively.
- ◆ **Digital Literacy** – Recognising online propaganda and misinformation.
- ◆ **Support Networks** – Access to safeguarding teams for confidential concerns.

Referral Pathways

Emergency Reporting

If a learner, staff member, or member of the public is in immediate danger:

- Call **999** for emergency police response

- Contact the **Counter-Terrorism Hotline**: 0800 789 321 (24/7)

Standard Reporting Procedure

1. Staff Identification

- Report any concerns about potential radicalisation (observed through behaviour, conversations, or online activity) immediately

2. Escalation to Safeguarding Lead

- Email: safeguarding@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk
- Phone: 0117 920 9200
- Include: Names, dates, specific observations, and reasons for concern

3. Safeguarding Lead Action

- Conducts initial risk assessment
- Consults with local Prevent Police Officers if required
- Initiates Channel referral where appropriate

Important Notes

- The Channel process is a **supportive, non-criminal** intervention (see Appendix 1)
- Single indicators do not necessarily indicate radicalisation - all concerns should still be reported
- Staff should never investigate concerns independently

Staff Responsibilities

- Report all concerns promptly
- Maintain accurate, factual records of observations
- Ensure follow-up on all reports

Safeguarding Referrers and Staff Members

While the risk of retaliation following a **Prevent or Channel referral** is low, Best Practice Network and statutory authorities have robust measures in place to protect staff and learners where concerns arise.

Protective Measures

1. Police Risk Assessment

- If a threat is identified (whether reported by the individual or detected by authorities), local police will:
 - Conduct a **threat assessment**
 - Implement **protective measures** (e.g., warning notices, increased patrols)
 - Apply **safeguarding interventions** where necessary

2. Anonymity & Confidentiality

- Referrals are treated **sensitively**—staff names are not disclosed unnecessarily.
- Where possible, concerns are investigated **without revealing the source**.

3. Ongoing Monitoring

- Police may:
 - Flag phone numbers/addresses for rapid response
 - Issue **harassment warnings** to potential perpetrators
 - Pursue **arrests or restraining orders** in serious cases

Staff Support

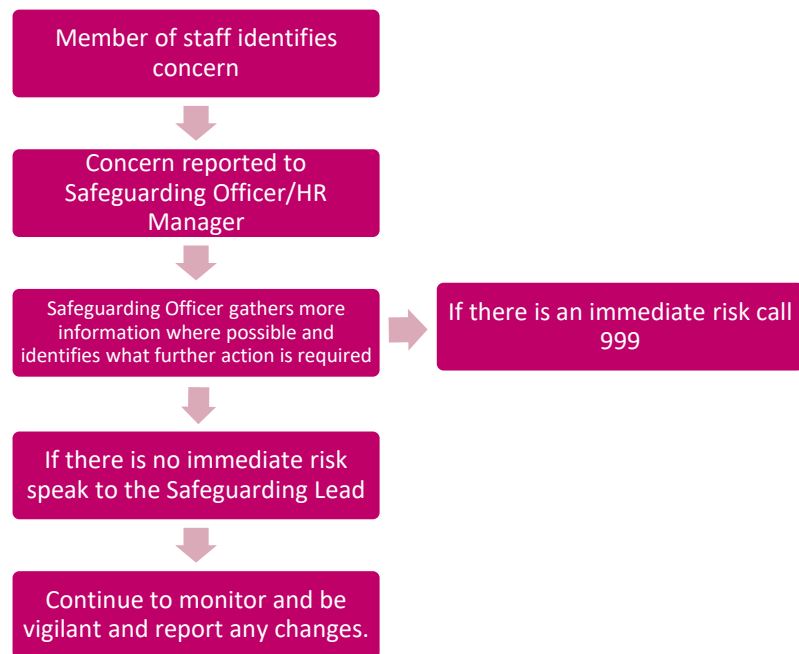
If you feel at risk **after making a referral**:

- Inform your **Safeguarding Lead** immediately
- Contact your **local police Prevent team** for advice
- Use **SafeLives** or **Victim Support** if needed (0808 1689 111)

Key Reminder

- **Do not withhold concerns** due to fear of repercussions—safeguarding processes exist to protect all parties.
- The priority is **early intervention**, not blame.

Appendix 1 – Prevent Referrals



For full guidance on submitting a **Prevent referral**, including:

- **Eligibility criteria**
- **Required information**
- **Multi-agency processes**

Refer to the official **UK Government Prevent guidance**:

- 🔗 Making a Referral to Prevent
- 🔗 Channel and Prevent Multi-Agency Panel (PMAP) Guidance

Key Notes for Staff

- All referrals from Best Practice Network must be **approved by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** before submission.
- Consult the DSL for **case-specific advice** – do not submit independently.
- Remember: **Channel is a support process**, not a criminal investigation.

Policy Annex: Prevent Duty Definitions

Core Concepts

Term	Definition	Relevance to Education
British Values	Democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect/tolerance. <i>[Prevent Duty 2015]</i>	Embed in curricula and staff training to foster resilience against extremism.
Radicalisation	Process where individuals adopt extreme views justifying violence.	Staff must recognise early signs (e.g., sudden ideological rigidity).
Extremism	Vocal/active opposition to British values, including calls for violence.	Report concerns to DSL even if no immediate threat exists.

Safeguarding Mechanisms

Term	Definition	Action Required
Channel Programme	Multi-agency support for at-risk individuals. <i>[CONTEST 2023]</i>	Refer via DSL if grooming or extremist influence is suspected.
Vulnerability Factors	Isolation, grievances, mental health struggles, online exposure.	Use safeguarding assessments to identify risks early.
Online Radicalisation	Grooming via social media, encrypted apps, or hate content.	Monitor digital spaces (e.g., forums used by learners).

Procedural Terms

Term	Definition	Example
Prevent Duty	Legal duty to prevent terrorism under <i>Counter-Terrorism Act 2015</i> .	Mandatory staff training; challenge extremist narratives in classrooms.
Referral Pathway	1. Report to DSL → 2. Channel assessment → 3. Tailored support.	Follow [Best Practice Network's Safeguarding Flowchart].
Ideological Extremism	Islamist, far-right, or single-issue (e.g., eco-terrorism).	Context matters: far-right extremism now 22% of UK cases <i>[Home Office 2023]</i> .