



## **Channel Programme (Prevent) Policy**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Channel is an early intervention multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being radicalised, drawn into violent extremism or terrorist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing safeguarding partnerships aimed at protecting children and vulnerable adults.

Channel has been designed to work with individuals of any age who are at risk of being exploited by extremist or terrorist ideologies. Although there are particular stages of the referral process, it shapes around the individual circumstance and provides support for any form of radicalisation or personal vulnerabilities.

### **2. POLICY**

#### **2.1 Internal process**

Should any member of staff have a concern about a student who is vulnerable to being radicalised they must first refer to the appropriate, established internal policies, for example the Supporting Students in Distress and/or the Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy. Should there be an immediate risk then the emergency services should be contacted. If there are concerns that the student may be vulnerable to terrorist ideologies, this must be escalated to the local Prevent Coordinator via Norland's Prevent Lead, the Head of HR, Resources and Compliance. Where necessary, the local Prevent police may be contacted.

#### **2.2 Referrals**

Referrals are passed to the local Prevent police team who will then open it as a case on their Prevent Care Management (PCM) systems. All referrals must meet the Prevent threshold. While there is no fixed profile of a terrorist, thresholds for accessing Prevent support are applied to determine whether a person is on a pathway that could lead to becoming a terrorist or supporting terrorism. Only referrals that are subsequently assessed by the police as meeting this threshold are progressed to Channel.

The police or local authority coordinate activity by requesting relevant information from panel partners about a referred person. The police will use this information to make an initial assessment of the nature and extent of the concerns. The information is then presented to a Channel panel.

Each Channel Panel is chaired by a Local Authority Channel Panel Chair (CPC) who should be a senior local authority officer. Depending on the nature of the referral, representatives from the following groups may be requested to sit on the panel NHS, social workers, education (schools, FE and HE), youth offending services, children's and adults' services, local safeguarding arrangements, local authority safeguarding managers, local authority Early Help services, Home Office Border Force and Immigration Enforcement, housing, prisons and probation providers.

Consent must be secured before Channel support is accessed. Once this has been provided, the panel will begin considering the provision of support required and will develop a support package that is bespoke to that individual. Support packages are delivered by local partners and specialist agencies.



Where consent is not secured within three months, the case will be closed to Channel. The police will then consider whether sufficient concerns remain for escalation to police-led partnership or whether a referral to health or social care would be more appropriate.

### 2.3 Information sharing and data protection

Channel is a voluntary programme where the person consents to receive support to address their terrorism susceptibilities and reduce the risk to them. They should therefore not be subject to any negative consequences as a result of their involvement in Channel (unless criminality subsequently becomes apparent).

Where possible, the consent of the individual must be given prior to sharing information. This ensures that the individual understands how their information will be used and for what purpose. However, there will be circumstances which mean this is not always practical. In these instances, Norland can legally share information with the police regarding an individual of concern without first seeking their consent, for further information please see [Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting people susceptible to radicalisation \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Any judgements regarding information sharing should assess whether it is both necessary and proportionate.

All information must be handled in line with the Data Protection Act.

All internal referrals will be processed confidentially and stored electronically within the appropriate database. The Prevent Lead will also keep electronic copies of this information confidentially on a restricted access drive. This information will be kept on file for one year after the individual student has graduated with their Norland Diploma.

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