

Channel Media/Stakeholder FAQs

What is Channel?

Channel is a multi-agency process, which provides support to those individuals who may be vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism. It is a key part of '*Prevent*' – the Government's strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Through Channel, partner agencies work together to assess the nature and the extent of the risk of radicalisation, and where necessary provide an appropriate support package tailored to an individual's needs.

How does Channel fit into the Government's Prevent strategy?

Safeguarding vulnerable individuals is an important part of the Prevent strategy. The Channel process supports people at risk of radicalisation across England and Wales.

Why is it necessary?

Radicalisation is usually a process and not an event therefore it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

Channel is a multi-agency initiative that uses existing partnership structures to safeguard individuals who are vulnerable to radicalisation, regardless of faith, ethnicity or background. This is similar to the way in which individuals at risk from involvement in crime, drugs and other social issues are supported. By providing support to those most at risk, they can be diverted away from any potential threat, which could otherwise draw them into criminal activity. Channel, alongside other supportive processes, provides a clear framework in which to respond to safeguarding concerns for those adults and young people who may be particularly susceptible to terrorist ideology, and thereby at risk of becoming involved in terrorism.

What forms of terrorism does Channel cover?

The Channel process, and the wider *Prevent* strategy, address all forms of terrorism, including right wing extremist activity. This can involve measures to counter forms of extremism that could lead to terrorist-related activity. But policy and programmes to deal with extremism and with extremist organisations that are not related to terrorism are not part of *Prevent* and are coordinated by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

The Channel process can apply to anyone who is vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Its purpose is to safeguard vulnerable individuals of any faith, ethnicity or background and to stop them being drawn into terrorism.

How does Channel work?

Channel works by identifying individuals who may be at risk, assessing the nature and the extent of the risk and where necessary, providing an appropriate support package tailored to their needs. A multi-agency panel, chaired by the local authority, decides on the most appropriate action to support an individual after considering their

circumstances. Each support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the multi-agency panel.

Who makes the referrals?

Referrals can come from a wide range of sources and could include youth offending teams, social services, health, education, police and members of the public.

Which partners are involved in the Channel process?

The multi-agency involvement in the Channel process ensures that vulnerable individuals have access to a wide range of support. This can include support provided by mainstream services such as health and education, through to guidance and mentoring to increase theological understanding and/or challenge the claims of violent ideologies. It also includes wider diversionary activities such as access to appropriate training or education courses. The partners involved will be those that can provide the best relevant support to address the needs or vulnerabilities identified. Partners can include:

- Local authorities, Adult and Children Services;
- Housing, Education, Health, Probation, Prisons;
- Police;
- Other Emergency Services;
- Youth Offending Teams;
- UK Border Agency and UK Border Force;
- Community and Voluntary Services; and local communities.

What is the Case Management Information System (CMIS)?

CMIS is the framework that Channel practitioners use to manage their caseload. It includes a vulnerability assessment framework that enables them to assess whether an individual is at risk of being drawn into terrorism. Channel practitioners assess individuals when they are referred to them, and if they require safeguarding then the assessment is kept up to date to ensure that the individual's needs are being met. The framework has a strong evidence base and has been peer reviewed by international experts in risk assessment.

What kinds of support do people referred to Channel receive?

If the Channel multi-agency assesses that someone is vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism they will put in place a package of support tailored to address the individual's specific needs. The types of support could include:

- **Life skills** – work on life skills or social skills generally, such as dealing with peer pressure;
- **Mentoring support contact** – work with a suitable adult as a role model or providing personal guidance, including guidance addressing extremist ideologies;
- **Anger management session** – formal or informal work dealing with anger;
- **Victim awareness contact** – work addressing attitudes towards victims, and the consequences of extremism and terrorism for victims;
- **Cognitive/behavioural contact** – cognitive behavioural therapies and general work on attitudes and behaviours such as thinking skills;

- **Offending behaviour contact** – programmes targeting or associated with specific offences or types of offence;
- **Constructive pursuits** – supervised or managed constructive leisure activities;
- **Education skills contact** – activities focused on education or training;
- **Careers contact** – activities focused on employment;
- **Family support contact** – activities aimed at supporting family and personal relationships, including formal parenting programmes;
- **Health awareness contact** – work aimed at assessing or addressing any physical or mental health issues;
- **Housing support contact** – activities addressing living arrangements, accommodation provision or neighbourhood; and
- **Drugs and alcohol awareness** – substance misuse interventions.

Who provides support to people referred to Channel?

Providers of support can include local agencies such as local authorities, the police education, health services, probation and youth offending teams. Support can also be provided by community partners where appropriate. Because the individuals that are safeguarded through Channel are vulnerable people, any community partners engaging with an individual will have first been approved by the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) in the Home Office.

Who pays for these services?

Where support is provided by a statutory partner the cost of the support is met from within their existing budgets. Where support is provided by a community partner, the Channel police practitioner is responsible for liaison with the support provider and a Regional Interventions Fund is provided to enable Channel to fund the community support.

Isn't Channel just a way of police spying on communities?

Channel is a supportive process to safeguard vulnerable individuals who may be at risk from being drawn into terrorism. It is not about spying and gathering intelligence. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they may face at an early opportunity. Police already work with individuals vulnerable to being drawn into criminal activity such as drugs, knife or gang crime. In a similar way the process of radicalisation allows us to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist related activity.

The police service is tasked with keeping the public safe and communities have a significant part to play in this. Police officers routinely gather information to combat crime and anti-social behaviour – public protection from terrorism and violent extremists is no exception. The public is a key partner in this process and has a central role to play in providing information to police to help protect their own communities from harm.

Does the Channel process target Muslims?

No. Channel applies to any individual, from any faith, ethnicity or background that may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

What should someone do if they have concerns that someone they know may be vulnerable?

Anyone who works for a statutory agency and has concerns about someone who may be vulnerable should contact their local Children or Adult Safeguarding Lead. Family members or those within local communities who have concerns about someone should contact (insert details as relevant to individual agency i.e. local authority Social Services team, Safer Schools officer, Safer Neighbourhood Team etc).

How many people have been referred to Channel?

Referral figures for Channel can be found on the ACPO website:

<http://www.acpo.police.uk/ACPOBusinessAreas/PREVENT/NationalChannelReferralFigures.aspx>

