

## Vulnerable to Radicalisation (VTR) or Influenced by Extremism

*This quick guide provides practitioners with guidance re concerns in relation to any child, young person or adult who may be at risk of being adversely influenced or radicalised by any extremist group or ideology. The full guidance document can be found at [www.suffolkscb.org.uk](http://www.suffolkscb.org.uk).*

The purpose of the PREVENT Strategy is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism in all its forms. The strategy has three objectives, one of which is to prevent people from being drawn into extremism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.

### Identification

Here are examples of indicators that *may* suggest vulnerability to violent extremism:

- **Expressed opinions** – such as support for violence and terrorism or the values of extremist organisations, airing of political or religious based grievances, unaccepting of other nationalities, religions or cultures.
- **Material** – possession of extremist literature; attempts to access extremist websites and associated password protected chat rooms; possession of material regarding weapons, explosives or military training.
- **Behaviour and behavioural changes** – such as withdrawal from family and peers; hostility towards former associates and family; association with proscribed\* organisations and those that hold extremist views.

*\*under the Terrorism Act 2000 the Home Secretary has the power to proscribe – forbid by law – an organisation believed to be concerned in terrorism.*

*The below link gives details of each organisation proscribed by the UK government:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2>

- **Personal history** – Claims or evidence of involvement in organisations voicing violent extremist ideology and identifying with their cause.

### Notice

A practitioner from any agency working with the child, young person or adult could be the person to notice that there has been a change in the individual's behaviour that may suggest they are vulnerable to violent extremism.

## **Check**

The next step is for the practitioner to speak to colleagues and/or partners to better understand the concerns raised by the behaviours observed to decide whether intervention and support is needed. In many cases there will be an explanation for the behaviours that either requires no further action or a referral not related to radicalisation or extremism.

## **Share**

Where the practitioner still has concerns that the individual may be vulnerable to violent extremism, a Vulnerable to Radicalisation (VTR) referral form is to be completed and sent to the MASH and relevant CYPS team if under 18. The MASH will notify Special Branch to carry out deconfliction checks and an initial assessment of the VTR prior to any further information gathering on the individual.

## **Channel**

Channel is a Multi-Agency Process, which provides support to those who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel uses existing collaboration between partners to support individuals and protect them from being drawn into terrorism.

Examples of support provided could include mentoring, diversionary activities such as sport, signposting to mainstream services such as education, employment or housing. The Channel process can access the use of an 'intervention provider'. This is Home Office funded and uses those on an approved list to work with individuals around their individual ideologies.

The Channel Practitioner will:

- Conduct an initial review of the information received to ensure the referral meets the necessary threshold.
- Contact partners through previously established Single Points of Contact to access further information.
- Where the individual is under 18 liaise with the local CAF co-ordinator, safeguarding manager or social care officer in Children and Young People's Services.
- Undertake a continuous risk assessment process.

## **Safeguarding Children and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)**

In some cases it may not be appropriate for an individual to continue through the Channel process because they are involved in a different statutory mechanism such as 'MAPPA' or child protection arrangements. Channel is not intended to replace those referral systems; in such cases ownership will rest with the relevant statutory support mechanism and the case may exit the Channel process or work alongside.

## **Channel Strategy Meeting**

This meeting involves a wide range of partners such as housing and education and individual referrals which have been assessed as potentially suitable for Channel are considered with safeguarding that person the primary objective. It will be chaired by a County Safeguarding Manager with the lead for VTR from Suffolk County Council and supported by the Channel Practitioner.

If the consensus is that support is required, an appropriate support package will be set out in an

action plan. At appropriate intervals the case will be reviewed. Once the risk has been successfully reduced or managed the panel will recommend that the case exits the process.

### **Contact Information**

For urgent safeguarding concerns call Customer First on **0808 800 4005**.

Further information about all Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board publications can be found on our website. [www.suffolkscb.org.uk](http://www.suffolkscb.org.uk)