

## Prevent Policy

Review Period:	Annual	Review carried out by:	Assistant Principal Student Care, Guidance and Intervention
To be approved by:	SMT	Date reviewed	New Policy – Nov 2015
	Governing Body		
Date to be reviewed:	Nov 2016		

### Prevent Policy - Guidance for Working with Children and Young People who are Vulnerable to the messages of Terrorism and Extremism 2015

#### College background

Hartlepool has a population of 92,700. There are around 20,300 children and young people below the age of 18 living in the town. Hartlepool is one of the most deprived towns in the country with 29.7% of children below 16 years of age living in a low-income family compared to 19.2% nationally. The percentage of secondary age pupils eligible for free school meals is also above average, 22.4% compared to 14.6% nationally.

Hartlepool Sixth Form College is the only specialist sixth form college in Hartlepool. Thirty percent of first year students are recruited from the five local partner schools in Hartlepool. Nine percent travel from North of the town and seven percent from the south. A further 3% come from other schools. The college also recruits international students, particularly from China (55).

According to the 2011 census data, less than three percent of Hartlepool's population is from a minority ethnic background. The unemployment rate in Hartlepool is significantly higher than both regional and national rates. The proportion of the population educated to level 2 or above is significantly lower than both regional and national rates. The proportion of students in Hartlepool schools attaining five GCSEs at A\* to C including English and mathematics is lower than the North East and England averages.

#### Background to Prevent and National Guidance

"The current threat from Terrorism and Extremism in the United Kingdom is severe. This means that a terrorist attack in the UK is highly likely, and more diverse, with the most significant threat coming from the Al Qa'ida senior leadership based on the border areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan and their affiliates and supporters in other areas".

***Cabinet Office Policy Paper Government Policy: Counter-terrorism, May 2015***

The College is governed by guidance designed to provide a clear framework for professionals with which to respond to safeguarding concerns for those children and young people who may be vulnerable to the messages of extremism.

**Radicalisation** is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism, extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups.

**Extremism** is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas” (*HM Government Prevent Strategy 2011*)

**CONTEST** is the Government counter terrorist strategy, it aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism.

**PREVENT** is a key part of the CONTEST strategy, its aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Early intervention is at the heart of “Prevent” in diverting people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. “Prevent” happens before any criminal activity takes place. It is about recognising, supporting and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

The Prevent Strategy objectives are:

- Ideology - respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- Individuals - prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
- Institutions - work in partnership with other agencies where there are risks of radicalisation.

**CHANNEL** is a key element of the “Prevent” strategy and is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children’s and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to:

- identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- assess the nature and extent of that risk
- develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.

## **Equality and Diversity**

No-one is to be treated in any way less favourably on the grounds of the legally protected characteristics: race, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, age, and religion.

The College actively promotes inclusive universal British Values such as Individual Liberty, Rule of Law, Democracy and Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

**‘Extremism’** is defined in the 2011 *Prevent* strategy as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

## **Understanding and recognising risks and vulnerabilities and radicalisation**

A **child** is defined in the *Children Acts* 1989 and 2004 as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, however the College recognises the risks posed to all students.

The ways in which young people can be influenced include:

- via family members or friends
- direct contact with extremist groups
- contact via the internet

Examples of extremist causes that have used violence to achieve their ends include:

- animal rights
- the far right
- internal terrorism
- international terrorist organisations

Safeguarding children and young people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding them from other forms of harm. Additional indicators for vulnerability to radicalisation:

- family tensions
- sense of isolation
- migration
- distance from cultural heritage
- experience of racism or discrimination
- feeling of failure.

Other behaviours to be aware of:

- involved with a new group of friends
- searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging,
- possessing extremist literature
- advocating violent actions

- changing behaviour and language
- seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology.

It is important to note that children and young people experiencing these situations or displaying these behaviours are not necessarily showing signs of being radicalised. There could be many other reasons for the behaviour and it is important to be cautious in assessing these factors to avoid inappropriately labelling or stigmatising individuals because they possess a characteristic or fit a specific profile.

### **Referral and intervention process**

Any member of staff at Hartlepool Sixth Form College who have any concerns regarding the issues identified within this guidance policy should report those concerns immediately and no later than the end of the working day to the:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (Assistant Principal for Student Care, Guidance and Intervention) or
- A member of the Be Safe Team.

The College will follow the recommended Channel guidance to assess vulnerability based around three criteria:

- Engagement with a group, cause or ideology
- Intent to cause harm
- Capability to cause harm

In all cases we would liaise with Cleveland Police and other agencies for further advice and guidance.

Further guidance can be found in the Statutory guidance for Channel panel members and partners of local panels:

**HM Government Channel Duty Guidance: *“Protecting vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism”*2015.**