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PREVENTING RADICALISATION

VOLUNTEER INDUCTION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- This session has been developed by a team of Prevent subject matter experts from NHS England and peer-reviewed by the Office for Security & Counter Terrorism at the Home Office and the Dept of Health & Social Care.
- The content in the session represents a fair and balanced reflection of the current risk and threat levels posed by radicalisation in the UK i.e., as independently assessed by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC).
- According to JTAC, the current greatest source of risk is from Islamist-inspired terrorism. However, there is an increasing and growing threat posed by XRW groups (Extreme Right-Wing) and we have been careful to include this threat within the body of the training.
- The session uses several scenarios and case studies to demonstrate particular issues around Prevent. Any of these scenarios, names, characters, and incidents portrayed in this session are fictitious. No identification with actual persons (living or deceased), places, buildings, and products is intended or should be inferred.

Why is Prevent Important?

Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism.

The threat that the UK faces from terrorism has never been greater nor more diverse; it is important that everyone is aware of, and understands, the risks posed.

Prevent is a safeguarding process which focuses on all forms of terrorism.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults is everyone's responsibility.

Volunteers have a key role to play in safeguarding children and adults who may be at risk.

LEGAL DEFINITIONS

Terrorism:

"An action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause" (Terrorism Act 2000)

Radicalisation:

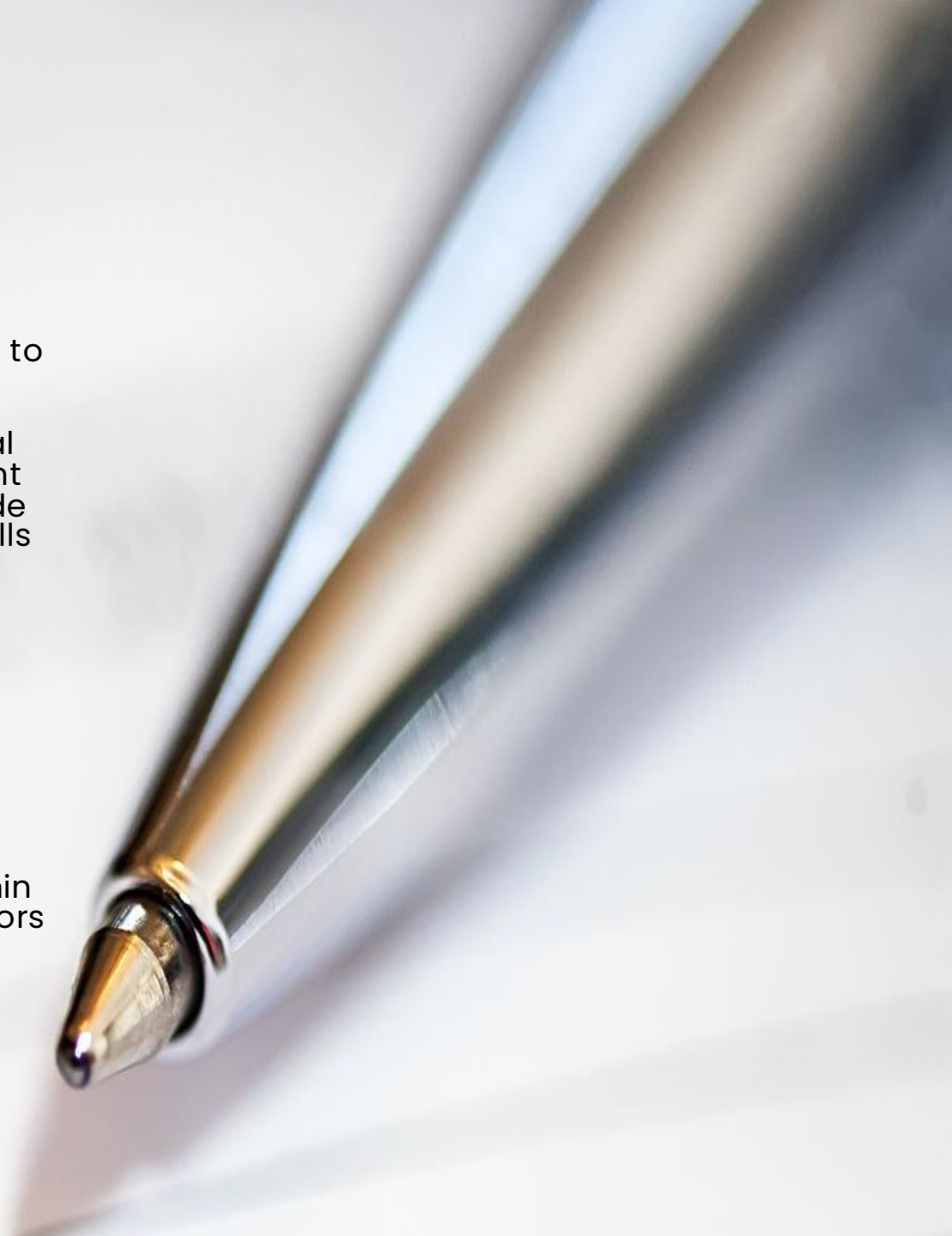
This refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

Extremism:

This 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.

Vulnerability:

This describes the condition of being capable of being injured; difficult to defend; or open to moral or ideological attack. Within Prevent, the word describes factors and characteristics associated with being susceptible to radicalisation.



WHAT IS PREVENT?

Prevent is part of the British Government's programme for tackling terrorism.

This programme is called CONTEST.
The aim of CONTEST is to reduce the risk to the UK and its citizens and interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

CONTEST has 4 key work streams:

Pursue - Trying to stop terrorist attacks from happening by detecting, prosecuting and otherwise disrupting those who plot to carry out attacks.
Prevent - Trying to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
Protect - Trying to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.
Prepare - Trying to limit the impact of a terrorist attack.

THE AIMS OF PREVENT

We meet an awful lot of people!

Almost everyone in Britain who has got involved with terrorism will have met volunteers at some point. So, we may have opportunities to identify people who are at risk.

Occasionally, volunteers have themselves become radicalised or drawn into terrorism.

It could affect one of our colleagues.

Volunteers must be able to recognise signs of radicalisation and be confident in raising concerns.

PREVENT IS:

Trying to stop individuals being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

Terrorist acts

People who commit terrorist acts don't start off as terrorists. They often start off as vulnerable people who are exploited by terrorist groups or influenced by terrorist **propaganda** (information, usually biased or misleading, which is used to promote a political cause, point of view or ideology).

Identifying people who are vulnerable

Prevent is about identifying people who are vulnerable to being exploited or 'groomed' or 'radicalised' by a terrorist organisation or its propaganda, but **before** they actually get involved in such organisations or commit any terrorist act.

Safeguarding

Prevent takes a safeguarding approach and tries to help people choose a different path, offering them mentoring or other support they may need to address their vulnerability.

WHY IS PREVENT IMPORTANT TO VOLUNTEERS?

Prevent does not require you to do anything additional to your normal volunteering duties.

However if you are concerned that someone you are supporting is being exploited or influenced by a group that supports terrorism you should report this to your volunteer coordinator.

You need to know how and when to do this – this is why you are doing this training.

As a volunteer, you must be aware of your duty to protect vulnerable people and to take action where necessary for safeguarding.

You must ensure that you:

- Know when you should be concerned about someone who is vulnerable to being radicalized.
- Report any concerns to your volunteer coordinator.

THE SIGNS AND FACTORS OF VULNERABILITY

People can be radicalised in lots of different ways:

- **Age** – They may be any age including children
- **Influences** - They may be influenced by family members or friends, direct contact with extremist groups and organisations or, increasingly, through the internet and social media.
- **People who are vulnerable** – People who are vulnerable in other ways maybe also vulnerable to radicalization
- **Being vulnerable** – Being ‘vulnerable’ doesn’t turn someone into a terrorist – most people have some sort of vulnerability in their lives.
- **Many vulnerabilities** – but when lots of vulnerabilities come together, it may be easier for a radical group to target the person and influence them.
- **Offering friendship** – some terrorist organisations have particularly targeted people who appear to be vulnerable, pretending to offer them friendship.

FACTORS THAT MAY CAUSE VULNERABILITY

Personal, mental and life issues

- Mental health factors:
- Mental illness
- Learning difficulties
- Personality problems
- Low self-esteem

Who you know and who you meet

- Spending time in a setting where there are other people with extreme views
- Contact with gangs, criminal groups
- Exposure to propaganda
- Peer pressure from others who are radicalised themselves
- Being targeted by groups or individuals who recognise vulnerability

Difficult life experiences

- Isolation, loneliness, bullying
- Family upheaval
- Feeling excluded from mainstream society because of unemployment, poverty, racism
- Immigration, migration and distance from cultural heritage
- Feeling aggrieved because of lack of opportunity or being let down by others or by society
- Drug and alcohol misuse

EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

- Events or issues in this country or elsewhere, which lead the individual to feel alienated from all or part of the mainstream of society, such as:
- War or sanctions which harm a country or group with which the individual has ties or allegiances
- National policies which support an objective or group to which the individual is strongly opposed
- Dominance of groups or ideologies which oppress or disempower other groups within society
- An increasing trend of extremist violence which may normalise this as a means of achieving political ends

CRIMINALITY

People who are already involved in violent crime or who have already turned their back on the law may have less personal resistance to being drawn into political violence than people who are normally law-abiding.

People who are caught up in the criminal justice system are much more likely than others to have contact with people who hold violent and extremist views: many people are radicalised in prison.

CASE STUDIES:

Oliver

Oliver has Asperger's Syndrome and has recently converted to Islam and adopted a conservative Arabic dress code. He has been bullied at school and his mother says that he now spends most of his time alone on the computer in his bedroom.

Oliver has told staff at his local Learning Disabilities Team that he has found new friends on the internet, who have shown him the path to true Islam and "changed his life". Oliver has also begun to talk very angrily about British foreign policy, referring to "*his brothers being attacked in the Middle East by unbelievers*" and that *"they deserve to be punished"*.

When questioned further he refused to elaborate and stormed out of the room.

Grace

Grace is 16 years old and lives with her single mother and younger disabled brother. She has recently been excluded from school after making racist remarks to one of the teachers. She has a history of substance misuse and regularly smokes synthetic cannabis with some new older friends who have taken her under their wing.

Grace arrives in the Emergency Department with a head wound which she says was caused as a result of a fight with two Asian girls. She says that she was involved in a fight with these girls whilst attending a rally by supporters of a far-right organisation calling for the banning of Islam. Grace becomes very agitated when an Asian nurse tries to treat her and says "*I don't want to be touched by a foreigner*".

IDENTIFYING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

How do we know if someone is being targeted by extremists?

- We very rarely know ‘for sure’. Most of the signs that may indicate radicalisation also occur in people who are not becoming radicalised – particularly in young people who are looking for a sense of identity.
- But if several signs are present, or if any sign is present to an exaggerated way, there may be reason to worry.

SIGNS THAT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY BE BEING GROOMED INTO RADICALISATION, BEARING IN MIND THAT THERE IS NO SINGLE PROFILE.

A CHANGE IN BEHAVIOUR

- Becoming withdrawn and not participating in their usual activities
- Going missing from their home, school or care setting
- Possessing, or searching for, extremist information online, or being secretive about their internet interests, e.g. switching screens when you come near their phone or computer
- Becoming more aggressive and fixated with certain ideas or political views

A CHANGE IN VIEWS AND INTERESTS

- Developing a conviction that their religion, culture or beliefs are under threat and treated unjustly
- Looking for conspiracy theories and distrust of mainstream media
- Using language that supports ‘us and them’ thinking
- Getting preoccupied with feelings of hatred or anger about particular mainstream or minority groups
- Losing interest in previous activities or friends
- Adopting new friendship groups
- A change in appearance. Changes in appearance may include:
  - Changing dress or style to accord with a new group
  - Having materials, tattoos or symbols associated with an extremist cause (e.g. the swastika for far-right groups)

ONLINE SAFETY

The use of social media to attract and groom individuals by radicalisers is ever increasing.

- Radicalisers are creative in their thinking and approach using many forms of social media. Often conversations begin on open social media sites and then move onto private messaging. This allows for more hidden ways of communication and could potentially make investigations and access to evidence more problematic.
- Some people show signs that they are beginning to associate with extremist ideas by changes in their online profiles, including their profile image or name.

WHAT OTHER WAYS DO YOU THINK PEOPLE CAN BE RADICALISED?

Choose the correct options:

- Extremist speakers – rallies, meetings, campuses, places of worship
- Friends and relatives
- World events
- Groups

WHEN THERE ARE CONCERNS

Concerns that an individual may be vulnerable to radicalisation, does not mean that you think the person is a terrorist, it means that you are concerned they are at risk of being exploited/groomed by others.

If you have any concerns, please speak to your volunteer coordinator.

You may also have concerns about an individual outside of your volunteer role. If this is the case, you must contact the police.

Remember – we all have a duty of care and safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

INFORMATION SHARING

We need to make sure that we share information. There have been cases where not sharing information has resulted in missed opportunities. There are golden rules for information sharing.

Data Protection Act (2018)
The Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) provides a framework for ensuring that personal information is shared appropriately. The DPA 2018 has been written to translate GDPR into UK law and it is, therefore, important that GDPR and DPA 2018 are read side by side.

Ensure information is necessary
Ensure the information you share is necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure.

Safety and wellbeing
Consider the safety and well-being of the person and others who may be affected by any actions.

Seek advice
Seek advice if you are in any doubt, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible.

KEY POINTS

- Prevent is a safeguarding process which focuses on all forms of terrorism. Prevent tries to stop individuals being drawn into terrorist-related activity
- The threat that the UK faces from terrorism has never been greater nor more diverse; it is important that everyone is aware of, and understands, the risks posed
- Don’t rely on others to pass on information. You have a duty and responsibility to report any concerns you have about an adult or child who you think may be vulnerable to being drawn into extremism

KNOWLEDGE QUIZ!

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THANK YOU!

NHS

Health Education England

The content of this training was developed by NHS England, E-Learning for Healthcare and has been adapted by **Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**, to help support the completion of the National Volunteer Certificate in an accessible format, ensuring that all volunteers have the same basic learning when they start in their role.