

## Spotlight on Prevent

### What is Prevent?

The strapline for Prevent is ... ***“to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism”***. Prevent works by identifying individuals who may be at risk of being exploited by violent extremist narratives and drawn into terrorism; assessing the nature and the extent of their vulnerability, and, where necessary, providing an appropriate support package tailored to their needs. .

### Why do I need to know about it?

Prevent is a safeguarding strategy, like many others within public protection, and therefore everyone has a responsibility to learn more about it. The purpose of Prevent is, at its heart, to safeguard and support vulnerable people in our communities to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. We all need to be alert to the signs that someone is at risk of or being drawn into being exploited by violent extremist narratives, and we all need to know how to raise our concerns. Whilst the number of referrals to Prevent in Scotland cannot be used to infer any trend of increased threat, we know that the risk from Extreme Right-Wing groups has increased across the UK and it is vital that the awareness raising provided to staff and communities reflects this situation.

### What kind of extremism are we talking about?

Prevent aims to tackle all forms of extremism including Islamist (Daesh, AQ, ISIS), Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism (ERWT), Northern Irish Related Terrorism (NIRT) and Left and Single-Issue Terrorism (LASIT). Beyond these conventional forms of terrorism, Prevent also deals with an increasing amount of mixed, unclear and unstable ideologies (such as supporters of the Incel – Involuntary Celibate – movement).

### Is this an issue in Scotland?

Latest published figures show that 100 individuals were referred to Prevent in Scotland between April 2019 and March 2020. A breakdown by local authority is not possible, as the number in any given area will be small.

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### Who is at risk of being radicalised?

There is a number of indicators that someone may be more vulnerable to radicalisation. Often these signs can relate to a person's vulnerabilities and often manifest in a change of that person's behaviour. Some vulnerabilities that may make someone vulnerable to radicalisation are:

- Social isolation
- Mental Health issues
- Drug/Alcohol issues
- Low self esteem
- Need for identity/belonging

These vulnerabilities can make people targets for radicalisation. When someone is being radicalised, they MAY show changes in their behaviours. Some behaviours to look out for are:

- Change in language use/scripted speech
- Change in online use
- Becoming withdrawn from friends/family
- Developing a "them and us" narrative
- Change of physical appearance (tattoos or dress)

Neither of these lists are exhaustive but serve as an example of what you may encounter when someone is being radicalised.

Read more here: [Radicalisation and child protection | NSPCC Learning](#)

### What is the profile of people referred to Prevent?

The majority of the individuals referred to Prevent were male (94%), and individuals aged 15-20 made up the largest proportion of referrals (44%). The most common type of concern related to right-wing extremism (35% of referrals). The education sector, including schools colleges and universities, was the most common referrer (32%).

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### Who has a responsibility for Prevent?

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies to work together to undertake the functions outlined under the Prevent strategy. The specified bodies in Scotland are listed as Local Authorities, NHS, Higher and Further Education, Independent and Grant-aided schools, Scottish Prison Service and Police Scotland. Each specified authority has a Prevent SPOC (Single Point of Contact) who acts as the conduit of information between these specified authorities (Police Scotland's is the Prevent Delivery Unit).

However, each and every one of us has a responsibility to be the eyes and ears within our own communities and to report anything suspicious to the Single Point of Contact within the local authority or Police Scotland.

### Where can I learn more about Prevent?

There is a lot of information online. Here are a few links to get you started!

- The Scottish guidance can be found here: [Revised Prevent duty guidance: for Scotland - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- EMPPC has [local guidance](#) which details the local contacts (agency SPOC and Police Prevent Delivery Unit) and processes for making a Prevent referral
- [Prevent in Scotland - Q&A Briefing - Police Scotland](#)
- [Safeguarding - Prevent radicalisation and extremism | Learning resources | National Improvement Hub \(education.gov.scot\)](#)
- The [Let's Talk About It - Working Together To Prevent Terrorism \(Itai.info\)](http://Itai.info) website has a combination of animations and films to give practical help and guidance to the public.

