

## 1. PREVENT DUTY

- 1.1 **Definition:** The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 sets out that specified authorities must have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.' This has become known as the 'Prevent duty'.

- 1.2 What are extremism and radicalisation?

**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'. The definition of extremism also includes calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Non-violent extremism is defined as extremism, but without violence.

**Non-violent extremism** can create an atmosphere in a community which can popularise the view of terrorism which terrorists can then exploit.

**Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and the extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

- 1.3 Who is covered by the Prevent duty?  
The Act applies to the governing bodies or proprietors of 'relevant higher education bodies'.

For monitoring purposes, this covers four distinct groups:

- Higher education providers that are funded directly by HEFCE
- Alternative providers with specific-course designation by government for the purposes of English student support funding
- Other providers that provide higher education to more than 250 students
- Training provider who work with FE college are requested to embed Prevent practices within their safeguarding requirements.

- 1.4 The Statutory Prevent Guidance summarises the requirements in terms of four general themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training, IT Policies. The Skills Centre will work with all BIS Regional FE/HE Prevent Co-ordinator and Prevent Programme Co-ordinator to ensure it is responding to this duty guidance. All staff working with The Skills Centre (including visiting staff, contractors) are required to be able to identify and report instances where they believe a young person may be at risk of harm or neglect including any harm through extremism or radicalisation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Reporting is undertaken through the government website at the appropriate address.

- 1.5 How are young people radicalised?

There is no obvious profile of a person likely to become involved in extremism or radicalisation or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas. The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over a varying time frame. If extremist views are held within a family unit, even very young children may be vulnerable to radicalisation and display concerning behaviour. Young people may be introduced to extremist views and ideologies both online and offline. Factors that may have a bearing on

someone becoming vulnerable may include: • peer pressure • influence from other people • the internet/social media • bullying • crime against them or their involvement in crime • anti-social behaviour • domestic violence • family tension • race/hate crime • lack of self-esteem • personal or political grievances • emotional trauma such as experiencing a bereavement or family separation • mental health issues • substance and alcohol misuse.

- 1.6 The role of social media Extremist groups make use of the internet to promote extremist materials, recruit and radicalise individuals. This can range from someone watching or reading extremist material to being encouraged to support and engage in extremist values. The Terrorism Act 2000 and 2006 made it illegal to have or share information that could be useful to terrorists.
- 1.7 Under the Prevent Duty, safeguarding staff will be trained to recognize risky behaviours, vulnerabilities and when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel Programme to support learners who may be vulnerable to such influences and where we believe a learner is being directly influenced by extremist materials or influences. It is unacceptable to download or transmit any material which might reasonably be considered obscene, abusive, sexist, racist, defamatory, related to violent extremism or terrorism or which is intended to annoy, harass or intimidate another person. This also applies to use of social media systems accessed from The Skills Centre.

The Skills Centre has systems in place for assessing and rating risks. Risk assessments for planned events, including off site events, external visitors and speakers to mitigate any risk. All staff are provided with training in recognizing and reporting risks and refresher sessions are provided to support ongoing development of this. All learners are provided with guidance on Prevent to ensure they understand the issues around terrorist materials, build resilience to extreme narratives and do not attempt to access high risk materials while under our supervision.

As a mandatory requirement, ALL members of The Skills Centre staff (including visiting staff, volunteers, contractors and Learners on placement) are required to have both a Prevent Certification (at the appropriate level for their work responsibility) as well as a Certificate in safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults. This is funded by The Skills Centre for all new employees who do not already hold the certification.

Learners are not supported to access the Centre wifi and use Guest Wifi access in which the access to material is limited. The Skills Centre ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are maintained.