

2018- 2021

Prevent Strategy



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National overview

The updated and strengthened CONTEST Strategy was launched in June 2018.

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.

The CONTEST Strategy consists of the following four work stands:

1. **Prevent**
To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
2. **Pursue**
To stop terrorist attacks.
3. **Protect**
To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.
4. **Prepare**
To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

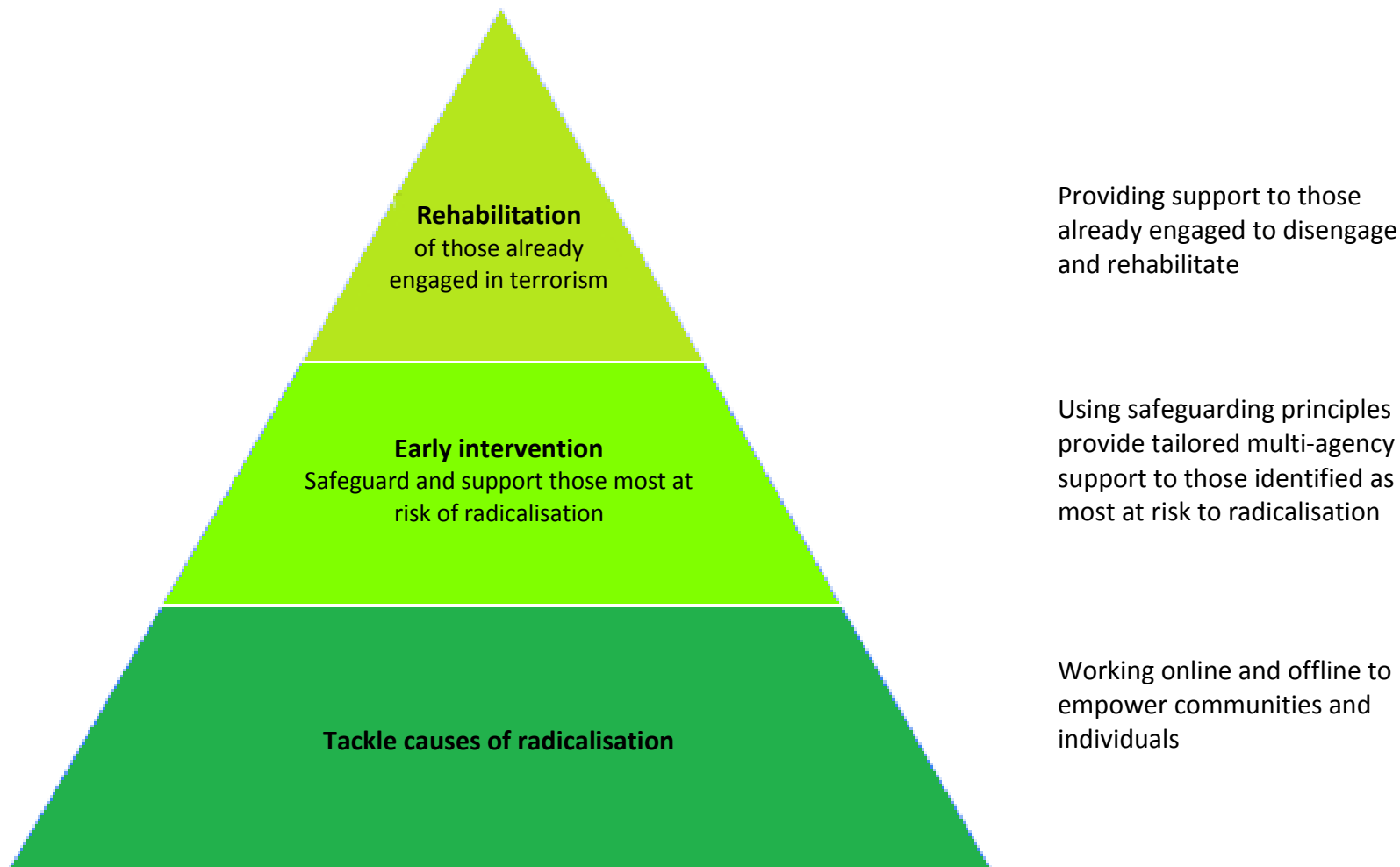
The Prevent Strategy recognises that there is no socio-demographic profile of a terrorist in the UK, and no single pathway or 'conveyor belt', leading to terrorism.

The aim of Prevent is to safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation, to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The strategy also includes supporting the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism.

The full CONTEST Strategy, including an overview of Prevent, can be found at www.gov.uk/government/collections/contest

The **Prevent Delivery model** below sets out the national approach to tackling the causes and risk factors that can lead to an individual becoming radicalised, support those who are at risk of radicalisation and rehabilitate those who have already engaged with terrorism.



Source: Home Office

Definitions

The Counter Extremism Strategy (2015) defines **extremism** as; ‘the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of our armed forces as extremist.’

Radicalisation is defined as; ‘the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism’. (Prevent Strategy 2011)

Terrorism is defined as; ‘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)

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

On 1st July 2015, the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (CTSA) 2015 became statutory.

Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory Prevent Duty on specified authorities in the exercise of their functions, to have ‘due regards to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’. These authorities include Schools, Colleges, Universities, Local Authorities, Health, the Police and Prisons.’

Specific guidance on the Prevent Duty is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance

Threat and risk

The threat level for the UK is set by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC). Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack:

- **Low**
An attack is unlikely.
- **Moderate**
An attack is possible, but not likely
- **Substantial**
An attack is a strong possibility
- **Severe**
An attack is highly likely
- **Critical**
An attack is expected imminently

The current threat level from international terrorism in the UK is **severe**, which means that an attack is highly likely.

In 2017, the threat level was raised to **critical** on two occasions.

The CONTEST strategy identifies the following types of terrorism that the UK faces;

- **International**
Terrorist organisations operating in Syria and Iraq (Da'esh and Al Qa'ida and like-minded organisations).
- **Extreme right-wing**
- **Northern-Ireland related**
- **Other**
These are often small movements in reaction to a single issue, specific incident, or ideology

The UK continues to face an evolving threat from radicalisation, extremism and terrorism. Da'esh inspired terrorism continues to pose the most significant threat to the UK and, despite the reduction in travel to conflict zones to join terrorist organisations operating in Syria and Iraq, travel still poses a potential threat.

That said, as highlighted by the UK based terrorist attacks in 2017, and the 12 plots thwarted since the Westminster attack in March 2017, the nature of the threat has now moved to individuals and groups, often inspired by the narrative of Da'esh, to use vehicles, knives and explosives to commit acts of terror within the UK.

The threat posed from Far Right and Extreme Right Wing organisations has also evolved and can be clearly evidenced through the murder of MP Jo Cox, the terrorist attack on Finsbury Park Mosque in 2017 and the four Right Wing inspired attacks foiled in 2017.

Alongside this Channel, the national safeguarding program to support those identified as being at risk of radicalisation, has seen an increase in Far Right related referrals, particularly within the North East of England of which Kirklees is a part of, accounting for 21% of all Far Right referrals in England and Wales.

The proscribing of National Action as a terrorist organisation highlights the serious threat posed by the Extreme Right Wing and the approach of the government to tackle this threat. More information in relation to Channel including national statistics can be found at

- www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance
- www.gov.uk/government/statistics/individuals-referred-to-and-supported-through-the-prevent-programme-april-2015-to-march-2016

The threat from terrorism is constantly evolving.

Globally, terrorist groups and networks of all ideologies continue to develop organically, exploiting social media, technology and science to further their aims and ambitions.

The Kirklees Prevent Strategy 2018-2021

The Prevent Strategy in Kirklees is driven by key themes on the 2018 – 2019 Kirklees Prevent Action Plan which are informed by national and local priorities.

The Kirklees Prevent Action Plan has six key themes:

1. To ensure community tensions are **identified** and **resolved** at the earliest opportunity
2. **Tackle** the **causes of radicalisation** and **respond** to the ideological challenge of terrorism
3. **Safeguard** and **support** those most at risk of radicalisation through **early intervention**, identifying them and offering support
4. Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to **disengage** and **rehabilitate**.
5. To support sectors and **institutions** where there is a risk of radicalisation.
6. To ensure effective **partnerships and governance structures** are in place to support and evaluate the delivery of the Prevent across Kirklees

The Kirklees Prevent Strategy contributes towards the delivery of the 'Protecting people from serious harm' theme within the Kirklees Community Safety Partnership Plan.

In common with other areas (such as human trafficking and child sexual exploitation) within this theme, it recognises that there is no single factor to radicalisation.

Vulnerabilities in individuals such as age, deprivation, low self-esteem, frustration and anger, along with a lack of protective factors (employment, education, family and social networks) can make an individual vulnerable to radicalisation.

The foundation of our work in Kirklees is to safeguard vulnerable people from harm by engaging with communities, civil society groups, education providers and statutory partners.

Prevent works best when delivered in partnership with communities as cohesive and empowered communities are better equipped to reject extremist ideologies. We will therefore continue to develop and grow our network of community groups delivering Prevent based initiatives across the district.

We acknowledge that the threat posed by extremist and terrorist groups continues to evolve.

The greatest threat continues to come from terrorist recruiters inspired by Da'esh who aim to recruit individuals and groups, whom are often vulnerable, to join their barbaric ideologies and beliefs. We therefore will continue to safeguard and work with our local communities and most vulnerable to eradicate the messaging of Da'esh across the district.

Our approach in Kirklees has always acknowledged the threat posed from right wing extremism. Right wing inspired referrals have increased on a national and local level therefore we will continue to ensure that our resources and projects challenge the narrative of the extreme right wing and are delivered in a manner that mitigates against this risk accordingly.

Our work with parents, and in particular women, is essential in ensuring that our young people are safeguarded from harm.

As the threat posed online continues to grow, and in line with the work being undertaken on a national level by the Home Office, we will ensure that our Prevent delivery across Kirklees moves into the digital age. This will ensure that young people are developing the skills to think critically and that parents understand the dangers associated with online radicalisation and extremism.

Supporting individuals identified as being vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism at an early stage is a key part of the Kirklees Prevent Strategy. The Kirklees Channel Panel, a voluntary safeguarding programme aimed at supporting those individuals identified as being vulnerable in Kirklees, is fundamental to this.

We will continue to support individuals at risk of radicalisation and extremism using a whole family approach and as with other safeguarding practices the Kirklees Channel program is reliant on a multi-agency response to minimise and manage the risk to an individual.

Channel draws on the existing collaboration within the Kirklees Partnership and has three objectives:

1. Identify individuals at risk of being radicalised or drawn into extremism
2. Assess the nature and extent of the risk
3. Develop the most appropriate support for the individuals concerned.

More information about Channel in Kirklees, including how to make a referral can be found at

www.kirklees.gov.uk/channelreferral

The introduction of the Prevent Duty has embedded Prevent in the day-to-day work of frontline staff and statutory partners across Kirklees.

We will remain compliant with the Prevent Statutory Duty, ensuring that we continue to work in partnership with local, regional and national partners and raise awareness of Prevent and the vulnerabilities associated with radicalisation and extremism within frontline organisations and staff.

The Police and Office for Security & Counter Terrorism (OSCT) will continue to provide support to Local Authorities nationally to assist authorities in focusing on the key strategic threats, risks and vulnerabilities at a local level. This support ensures that a proportionate and effective response is delivered where required to safeguard individuals and ensure the safety of the public.

The Kirklees Prevent Strategy will continue to be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis to reflect the changing nature of the terrorist threat.

Governance and partnerships

The Kirklees Prevent Hub, under the guidance of the Kirklees Prevent Coordinator, is the main point of contact for Prevent enquiries and concerns and oversees the delivery of Prevent activities across Kirklees.

The arrangement for managing civil contingencies and emergency situations in Kirklees is managed by the Kirklees CONTEST board consisting of 'Gold, Silver and Bronze' command.

The Kirklees CONTEST board have a fundamental role in informing strategic priorities and responses associated with threat and risk in the area and provide scrutiny to the Prevent Strategy and Action Plan.

