

# FACT SHEET

## Channel Panel

### Overview

Channel is a voluntary, confidential programme which operates throughout England and Wales to safeguard people identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It is a multiagency process, involving partners from the local authority, the police, education, health providers, and others. Referring possible cases of early stage radicalisation works in a similar way to safeguarding processes designed to protect people from gang activity, drugs, physical and other forms of abuse.

Channel is one element of **Prevent**, which is part of the UK Government's wider Counter Terrorism strategy.

### Who can make a Prevent referral, and how?

A referral can come from anyone who is concerned about a person they know who may be in need of safeguarding from a risk of radicalisation. Anyone can make the referral. For example, a family member, friend, work colleague, or a wide range of partners: social services, children and adult services, youth offending teams, health, police, education establishments, and places of worship and community organisations. The referral should be made using the National Referral Form. This can be found online at: [www.hants.gov.uk/community/prevent](http://www.hants.gov.uk/community/prevent)

### What happens to a Prevent referral?

All referrals are carefully assessed by the police and then referred onto the Channel chair in the local authority to see if they are suitable for Channel. If suitable, the case is discussed with all relevant partners at a Channel panel to decide if an intervention is necessary. If not, the case is signposted to other support services.

### What about consent?

Referred individuals are informed and **must personally give consent** (or via a parent or guardian if they are children) before an intervention can take place.



## CHANNEL

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### How does a Channel panel work?

The Channel panel is chaired by the local authority and works with multi-agency partners to collectively assess the risk to an individual and decide whether an intervention is necessary. If a Channel intervention is required, the panel works with local partners to develop an appropriate tailored support package. The support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the Channel panel.

### Who sits on a Channel panel?

The Channel panel is chaired by the local authorities and can include a variety of statutory partners such as the police, children's services, social services, education professionals and mental health care professionals.

### What kind of support is offered via Channel?

The type of support available is wide-ranging, and can include help with education or career advice, dealing with mental or emotional health issues, drug/alcohol abuse, and theological or ideological mentoring from a Channel **Intervention Provider** (a specialist mentor).



## SUPPORT

The type of support available is wide-ranging and can include help with education or career advice, or dealing with mental or emotional health issues.

### Key messages

- Channel addresses all forms of terrorism.
- Participation in the Channel programme is voluntary and confidential. Many types of support are available, addressing educational, vocational, mental health, and other vulnerabilities. An Intervention Provider is considered for every individual adopted into Channel.
- Participation in Channel is **not a criminal sanction**.
- Channel panels will only offer support where they consider that it is necessary and proportionate to do so. Channel may decide that a person's vulnerabilities are not terrorism-related. In this case they will refer the person to other forms of support.



### PREVENT TEAM

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