

1.0 Introduction and Context

Prevent is a strand of the Government's counter terrorism strategy. The UK faces a range of terrorist threats. Threats are not limited to the threat from religious extremists and we therefore need to be mindful of all potential threats to which our students are exposed. All terrorist groups who pose a threat to us seek to recruit and radicalise individuals to their cause. Nationally Prevent seeks to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote those views.
- Provide practical help and support to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.
- Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which need to be addressed, including the education sectors, criminal justice, faith groups, the internet and health service.

The UK has a system of threat levels which represents the likelihood of an attack in the near future. The five levels are:

Critical – an attack is expected imminently

Severe – an attack is highly likely

Substantial – an attack is a strong possibility

Moderate – an attack is possible but not likely

Low – an attack is unlikely.

The current threat level within the UK is determined as Severe.

The Government's Counter Terrorism and Security Act places certain duties on further and higher education institutions in relation to the prevention of radicalisation and extremism. This policy seeks to ensure that the college meets the expectations of this legislation.

Colleges are major education providers for the 16-25 year old age group, who are particularly vulnerable to radicalisation. Colleges have an integral part to play in fostering a set of shared 'British values' and promoting community cohesion.

The government's own definition of extremism as contained within the Prevent strategy will be the definition used within this policy and 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.

2.0 Aims of the Prevent Policy

This policy has the following aims:

1. To promote and reinforce a set of shared values, founded on tolerance and respect for others.
2. To create a safe space for free and open debate.
3. To promote a sense of community cohesion both within the college and within its wider external community.
4. To ensure that students are safe and that we create an environment that is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.
5. To support students who may be at risk from radicalisation and to be able to signpost them to further external sources of support where appropriate.
6. To ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities under this policy and are able to recognise and respond to vulnerable students.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the college's safeguarding policy and procedures and the college's equality and diversity scheme.

3.0 Defining British Values

British values are defined by the Government as:

“democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different backgrounds, characteristics, beliefs and faiths”

This definition is a natural extension of the college's three core values of Respect, Responsibility and Professionalism.

4.0 Managing risks and responding to events

Embedding values within the college

Equality and Diversity, the values of respect and tolerance will be embedded within teaching and learning sessions. This will be supported by additional tutorials where necessary on a range of subjects that support values and values based decision making. Teachers will be empowered to encourage open and safe debate with support from specialist staff where this is deemed necessary. The Equality and Diversity Steering Group working will take the lead on this aspect of the policy.

Coordination and overall responsibilities

The Designated Safeguarding Person for the college will have overall responsibility for the coordination of Prevent activity. This is the Vice Principal: Communications, Engagement and Student Experience. She will be supported by the work of the Safeguarding Steering Group in this task.

Partnership and working with other agencies

The college will foster good working relationships with other agencies including the local authority, police and regional Prevent coordinator. The college will share information with external agencies as appropriate to safeguard students.

Risk assessment

The college will undertake a prevent risk assessment (attached to this policy at appendix 1) this risk assessment and subsequent action plan will be reviewed on a termly basis by the Safeguarding steering group who will carry oversight responsibility for prevent activities within the college.

Staff training

All members of staff are required to undertake safeguarding training; this will be extended to include the prevention of radicalisation and extremism awareness training. Training will enable staff to identify and understand the factors that make people vulnerable to being drawn into extremism and the knowledge of college processes and procedures to report concerns. This will form a mandatory element of staff training. Training will be extended to cover members of the college's governing body. Staff will be required to undertake refresher training on an annual basis.

Partner Providers

Awareness raising sessions for our partner providers will be provided at least on an annual basis. Radicalisation and extremism will form part of a monthly safeguarding and equality and diversity declaration provided by partners and will form part of our partner assessment processes and procedures.

The distribution of leaflets and other literature within the college

Prior to any literature being distributed in college from external agencies or by students when this literature is not related to their programme of study, the permission of the Vice Principal: Communications, Engagement and Student Experience or in her absence the Communications Manager should be sought.

Speakers and events within the college

The college welcomes and actively encourages guest speakers and external agencies into college as a powerful mechanism to enrich the learning and wider learning experience. However, the college will refuse entry to those speakers whose values are contrary to the college's own and who may be wishing to engage with the college as a mechanism to promote extremist views.

Guest speakers are, in the main, booked and authorised by schools of learning, however if staff are unsure about the validity of speakers or organisations wishing to host events in college, advice should be sought from the Vice Principal: Communications, Engagement and Student Experience.

External agencies wishing to hold an event at the college should provide at least a month's notice and be willing to share an outline of the event and presentational content prior to the event.

Further advice and procedures for the management of events and speakers is contained within the speakers and events policy.

Online safety

The college employs web filtering intended to stop students accessing inappropriate material whilst on college premises. This is encapsulated in the college's IT acceptable use policy and breaches of the policy will be dealt with in accordance with the staff and student disciplinary procedures. The college will continue to promote online safety and educate students about safe and responsible internet use.

The college proactively monitors attempts to access sites that are deemed unsuitable and extremist. Action is taken where this raises concerns about a student.

Reporting concerns about vulnerable students

Concerns specifically related to students who may be vulnerable to radicalisation should be reported using the college's safeguarding procedures.

Making a referral to Channel or other agencies

The designated safeguarding person will make a decision as to whether concerns should be raised with an external agency. The Designated Safeguarding Person for the college is the Vice Principal: Communications, Engagement and Student Experience, they may decide to call a special meeting of the exceptional needs panel to discuss concerns, make a referral to Channel and monitor issues.

5.0 Responsibilities

All staff

Are responsible for undertaking training on preventing radicalisation and extremism, for making themselves aware of the procedures contained within this document and for promoting fundamental British values as part of their day to day activity.

Governors

Members of the governing body have oversight responsibility for the college's response to prevent duties.

Safeguarding steering group

Have oversight responsibility for the prevent policy and action plan. They will monitor and review prevent procedures on at least a termly basis.

The Students' Union

Will work alongside college managers to promote safety, safeguarding and the prevention of extremism and radicalisation.

Designated Safeguarding Officer – Vice Principal: Communications, Engagement and Student Experience

Had overall strategic responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for reporting concerns to external agencies as appropriate.