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Dear Colleagues

**PREVENT: Working together to safeguard people from being drawn into terrorism**

This note provides some essential information for Sheffield Schools about PREVENT, which is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy.

In response to the Prevent duty and requests from schools, Sheffield City Council and Learn Sheffield ran a series of briefings in the Autumn Term of 2015, that provided:

- Awareness of the local context around Prevent
- Home Office WRAP training to key school contacts
- Details of local escalation routes if you come across concerns
- Emerging themes around Prevent from Ofsted inspections

We are discussing with Learn Sheffield running further annual introductory briefings on PREVENT for new senior school leaders. In the meantime further advice and guidance for schools on PREVENT is available from the sources listed at the end of this letter. However, we did want to be clear about referral processes if schools or providers have concerns about individual, whether child or adult. These are as follows:

**If you have concerns about a vulnerable individual:**

1. Discuss your concerns through your internal safeguarding processes, with a colleague, the school designated safeguarding lead, or headteacher

**If you still have PREVENT concerns and wish to discuss further or escalate**

2. Contact Adult or Children's Safeguarding at Sheffield City Council through:
  - a. *Sheffield Children and Families SPOC, Steve Hill* : Telephone: 0114 2734934 Email: [LADO@sheffield.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@sheffield.gcsx.gov.uk)
  - b. Safeguarding Adults Team: Telephone 0114 273 6870 Email: [safeguardingadults@sheffield.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingadults@sheffield.gcsx.gov.uk)

Or

3. Speak to the SYP Prevent team (Jo Batty / Brendan Pakenham) via 101 or your local Police contact

**In an emergency (where yours or others safety is threatened) call 999**  
**To report illegal terrorist information, pictures or videos you've found on the internet contact:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

Yours sincerely

Jayne Ludlam  
Executive Director  
Children, Young People and Families

## **Annex: Briefing note on the Prevent Strategy**

### **What is PREVENT?**

PREVENT is a strand of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy. The Counter Terrorism and Security Act of 2015 makes the implementation of PREVENT a statutory duty for public bodies, including local authorities, schools and colleges, the police and health services.

The PREVENT strategy aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism by:

- Challenging extremist ideologies (that might be promoted through, eg, internet propaganda or extremist speakers).
- Safeguarding Individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Supporting institutions (including schools, councils, universities, faith organisations, etc.) to address the risk of extremism.

PREVENT is a *safeguarding issue* and seeks to support individuals before they get involved in criminal activity. It is concerned with *all* forms of terrorism, including that driven by extreme Islamist ideology, extreme right wing groups, animal rights extremism, etc.

The government has defined extremism as "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".

Terrorist groups often draw on extremist ideology which seeks to justify or promote terrorism or encourage others to commit terrorist acts.

### **What does PREVENT mean for Schools?**

#### **Safeguarding**

PREVENT is a *safeguarding issue*. Children and young people can be drawn into violence or they can be exposed to the messages of extremist groups by many means: through the influence of family members or friends and/or direct contact with extremist groups and organisations or, increasingly, through the internet. This can put a young person at risk of being drawn into criminal activity and has the potential to cause *significant harm*. Children and young people are vulnerable to exposure to, or involvement with, groups or individuals who advocate violence as a means to a political or ideological end.

It is very rare that individuals, including those who have been exposed to extremist ideologies, become drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorist organisations.. Numerous factors can contribute to and influence an individual's vulnerability or susceptibility to extremism. It is important to consider these factors as part of a wider safeguarding approach. It is also necessary to understand those factors that build resilience and protect individuals from engaging in violent extremist activity. Safeguarding children and young people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding them from other forms of harm.

#### **Ofsted, Schools and Education Providers**

The Ofsted Common Inspection Framework assesses the implementation of the PREVENT duty across council services, and in early years, education and skills settings. This applies to all agencies supporting children such as Children's Homes, and training providers as well as schools and academies. The Department of Education has produced guidance including *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (July 2015) and *The Prevent Duty: Advice for Schools and Childcare Providers* (July 2015).

Under the Prevent Duty, Schools and childcare providers are required under the duty to ensure that they:

- Deliver a broad and balanced curriculum
- Work with local partners and understand the local risk
- Implement robust safeguarding policies, addressing relevant issues such as referral pathways and visiting speaker guidelines, ensuring that Prevent is appropriately referenced in safeguarding policies which are accessible to parents via school websites and other routes.
- Link with the local safeguarding board
- Train staff how to recognise vulnerability and escalate concerns
- Address the online safety of pupils by reviewing e-safety policies and web filtering software

### **Further Guidance, Resources and Information**

Advice on the Safeguarding Sheffield Children Website including e-safety:

<https://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org.uk/welcome/Schools-other-education-settings/Schools-Education-Settings-Policies-Procedures.html>

National resources via DfE <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-extremism-in-schools-and-childrens-services/preventing-extremism-in-the-education-and-childrens-services-sectors>

[www.educateagainsthate.com](http://www.educateagainsthate.com) New Govt website with useful links to a range of resources (curriculum, policy, etc).

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/tackling-extremism-in-schools-11105440>

[www.preventforschools.org](http://www.preventforschools.org) is a growing library of resources for schools on the issue.