

Prevent Duty Statement

Introduction

InterAct is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all children, young people, vulnerable adults, families, staff, volunteers, trustees, and others involved in the Charity's activities.

Protecting individuals from being drawn into terrorism or supporting extremist ideologies forms an important part of InterAct's wider safeguarding responsibilities. The Charity recognises that people can be vulnerable to radicalisation for a variety of reasons and is committed to identifying concerns early, providing appropriate support, and working in partnership with relevant agencies where necessary.

Under **Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**, InterAct has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (the **Prevent Duty**). The Prevent Duty forms part of the Government's wider counter-terrorism strategy, **CONTEST**, and focuses on safeguarding individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. Its aim is to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism through early identification, appropriate support, and partnership working.

This statement explains how the Charity seeks to fulfil that responsibility in a proportionate and appropriate manner, taking account of the nature of its services, the individuals it supports, and the current Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales.

Key Terms and Phrases

For the purposes of this statement:

Prevent Duty - The statutory duty placed on certain organisations under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Radicalisation - The process through which an individual comes to support terrorism or extremist ideologies associated with terrorism.

Extremism - The promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

- negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others;
- undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
- intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve either of the above.

Terrorism - The use or threat of serious violence or other actions intended to influence the Government or intimidate the public for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial, or ideological cause.

Channel - A voluntary, confidential, multi-agency programme that provides early support to individuals who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Our Commitment

InterAct is committed to:

- providing a safe, welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment where individuals are treated with dignity and respect;
- embedding the Prevent Duty within the Charity's wider safeguarding arrangements and recognising that radicalisation is a safeguarding concern;
- promoting equality, inclusion, mutual respect, positive relationships, and respect for democratic values through the Charity's services and activities;
- encouraging individuals to express their views respectfully whilst challenging behaviour or conduct that promotes hatred, violence, discrimination, extremism, or terrorism;
- maintaining appropriate Prevent risk assessments, action plans, and proportionate control measures;
- ensuring staff and volunteers understand their Prevent and safeguarding responsibilities through appropriate information, training, and guidance;
- working in partnership with safeguarding partners, the Police, Prevent teams, Channel, local authorities, and other relevant agencies where appropriate;
- ensuring concerns are reported promptly, managed proportionately, and handled sensitively and confidentially;
- ensuring the Chief Executive Officer oversees the Charity's Prevent arrangements and regularly reviews their effectiveness;
- ensuring the Board of Trustees receives appropriate information on Prevent-related risks, activities, and significant concerns to support effective governance and oversight; and
- monitoring and reviewing this statement and the Charity's Prevent arrangements periodically to ensure they remain effective and reflect current legislation, guidance, and best practice.

Recognising Vulnerability and Risk

InterAct recognises that there is no single profile of a person who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and that vulnerability can arise for a wide variety of reasons.

The factors listed below do not make someone more likely to hold extremist views, but they may mean that some individuals require additional support to recognise manipulation, coercion, or exploitation by others:

- social isolation or loneliness;
- difficulties with identity, belonging, or self-esteem;
- family or personal difficulties;
- exposure to extremist material online or through social media;
- mental ill health or emotional distress;
- experiences of bullying, discrimination, or exclusion;
- a desire for acceptance, purpose, or belonging; or
- influence or grooming by individuals or groups promoting extremist ideologies.

Remember: Radicalisation should always be viewed as a safeguarding concern and considered alongside other forms of abuse, exploitation, neglect, or harm.

Reporting Concerns

InterAct encourages all staff and volunteers to remain vigilant and to report any concerns relating to radicalisation, extremism, or terrorism, regardless of how minor they may initially appear. Early identification and appropriate intervention can help prevent individuals from being exploited or drawn into harmful activity.

Where a member of staff or volunteer has concerns about an individual, they should:

- remain calm and avoid making assumptions or confronting the individual;
- record their observations factually and objectively;
- report the concern to the Designated Prevent Lead or Deputy Prevent Lead as soon as possible and, wherever practicable, no later than the end of the working day;
- maintain confidentiality and only share information with those who need to know; and
- continue to provide appropriate support to the individual unless advised otherwise.

Where there is an immediate risk to life, a threat to public safety, or a crime is taking place, staff should contact the emergency services immediately by calling **999**.

The Designated Prevent Lead will consider each concern on its individual merits and, where appropriate:

- seek further information;
- consult with safeguarding partners or other relevant agencies;
- consider whether a referral to the Police, local safeguarding team and/or the Channel programme is appropriate;
- ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are implemented; and
- maintain a confidential record of concerns, decisions, and actions taken.

Individuals should not investigate concerns themselves or attempt to gather evidence beyond recording their observations. Any action taken should prioritise the safety and wellbeing of the individual concerned and others who may be affected.

Staff Training and Awareness

InterAct recognises that effective implementation of the Prevent Duty depends upon staff and volunteers understanding their safeguarding responsibilities and being able to recognise and respond appropriately to concerns, and will seek to ensure that:

- Prevent awareness forms part of staff and volunteer induction, where appropriate;
- staff and volunteers receive information, guidance, and training appropriate to their role;
- the Designated Prevent Lead and Deputy Prevent Lead maintain an appropriate level of knowledge to fulfil their responsibilities;
- staff understand how to recognise and report concerns relating to radicalisation and extremism; and
- staff and volunteers are informed of significant changes to legislation, guidance, or local safeguarding procedures where relevant.

Working with Partners

InterAct recognises that safeguarding individuals from radicalisation is a shared responsibility and is committed to working collaboratively with other organisations where appropriate.

Where concerns arise, the Charity may work with:

- Essex Safeguarding Children Partnership;
- Essex Safeguarding Adults Board;
- Essex Police;
- the Local Authority;
- the Channel Panel;
- education providers;
- health professionals; and
- other agencies involved in safeguarding or supporting the individual.

Information will only be shared where there is a lawful basis to do so and in accordance with the Charity's safeguarding and data protection arrangements.

Monitoring and Review

InterAct will keep its Prevent arrangements under regular review to ensure they remain appropriate, proportionate, and effective.

This will include reviewing:

- this Prevent Duty Statement;
- the Charity's Prevent risk assessment and action plan;
- any Prevent-related incidents or concerns;
- relevant changes to legislation or Government guidance;
- staff training requirements; and
- feedback from staff, volunteers, service users, families, and partner organisations where appropriate.

This statement will normally be reviewed annually, or sooner where there are significant changes to legislation, guidance, organisational activities, or identified risks.

Contact Details

Contact	Details
Designated Prevent Lead	Vickie Perkins 07976 781054
Deputy Prevent Lead	Mark Hagon 07957 997126
InterAct Office	01245 801571

Essex Prevent/Channel Referrals Guidance and contact details:

- Website: <https://www.escb.co.uk/safeguarding-topics/radicalisation/prevent-process-in-essex/>
- Tel for advice: 01245 452196

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