

Title	Prevent Duty Statement
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1. Introduction

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). This statement sets out how we comply with the Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales, issued under section 29 of the Act (September 2023).

The threat of terrorism and extremism in the UK can involve the exploitation of others to involve them in terrorism or activity in support of terrorism, and the promotion of extremist views or ideology. The Government’s Prevent strategy aims to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised and subsequently being drawn into extremism and terrorism. InterAct does not tolerate extremist views of any kind.

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy statement is to set out what InterAct does to:

- Provide a safe and supportive environment for all our beneficiaries and have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism
- Ensure that there is a clear reporting and escalation route should staff become aware of a concern
- Ensure that staff receive relevant training in respect of radicalisation and extremism and understand their role and responsibilities in regard to the Prevent Duty and safeguarding individuals

Scope

This statement applies to all staff, governors, contractors, volunteers and partners working with or on behalf of InterAct.

2. Definitions

- **Extremism** is defined 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, whether in this country or overseas (HM Government Prevent Strategy, 2011)
- **Radicalisation** is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups
- **Terrorism** is the use or threat of action (serious violence against a person, serious damage to property, endangering a person’s life, serious risk to the health and safety of the public, serious interference with / disruption of an electronic system), designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public or a section of the public, or made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause

3. Our Commitment

We will ensure:

- That staff are aware of InterAct's Duty, through briefings and training
- We maintain a risk assessment and action plan relating to our obligations under the Duty
- Maintain a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to the Government's Prevent agenda
- We engage with local Prevent Delivery Boards, Channel Panels and multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to share information and best practice
- Families are able to register any concerns they have with an appropriate member of staff
- That any significant risk or concerns are handled in liaison with the correct external agencies
- That appropriate support is in place to all individuals, including those about whom concerns are raised
- We embed Prevent across our governance and culture
 - CEO take ownership of the Prevent duty and regularly review progress
 - Staff and Trustees receive clear Board-level reporting on any Prevent activities and risk
- We promote an open culture where concerns about radicalisation can be raised without fear of reprisal
- That referrals to Channel (the multi-agency early intervention panel) are made promptly
- That this Prevent Duty Statement is reviewed annually and updated as necessary
- That feedback from staff, learners, service users and partners inform continuous improvement

4. Vulnerability & Risk Indicators

The following lists are not exhaustive and all or none may be present in individual cases of concern. Nor does it mean that a person experiencing these factors are automatically at risk of exploitation for the purposes of extremism.

The following factors may increase an individual's vulnerability:

- Identity crisis: being distanced from cultural or religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in society
- Personal crisis: family tensions; sense of isolation; low self-esteem; disassociating from friendship group and becoming involved with different groups of friends; searching for answers about identity, faith and belonging
- Personal circumstances: migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from British Values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy
- Unmet aspirations: perceptions of injustice; feelings of failure; rejection of civic life
- Criminality: experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement, previous involvement with criminal groups

5. Procedures For Reporting Concerns

Concerns as a result of observed behaviour or conversations to suggest that the person supports terrorism or extremism are to be reported to the CEO or Designated Prevent Lead immediately and no later than the end of the working day.

Any concerns related to an imminent threat are to be reported directly to the Police by calling 101 or 999.

The Designated Prevent Lead team will respond to all concerns, will provide advice and co-ordinate action which may be required, in consultation with the Deputy Prevent Lead.

A confidential log will be maintained of the issues raised.

Decisions to refer any concern outside of InterAct (i.e. police, Channel) will be made by the Designated Prevent Lead

Key Contact Details

InterAct Safeguarding Contacts

InterAct Office		01245 801571
InterAct Designated Prevent Lead	Vickie Perkins	07976 781054
InterAct Deputy Prevent Lead	Mark Hagon	07964 609180
Essex Police		999 / 112