



ASSOCIATION OF
CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS



Home Office

Channel Factsheet

National Counter Terrorism Policing HQ

Channel – A Partnership Approach to Protecting Vulnerable People From Being Drawn Into Terrorism.

What is Channel?

Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. The process, which operates across England and Wales, forms a key part of the Government's *Prevent* strategy which aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting any form of terrorism.

Channel seeks to :

- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity;
- Ensure that individuals and communities have the ability to resist all forms of terrorism and violent extremist activity likely to lead to terrorism.

How does Channel work?

The Channel process identifies those most at risk of radicalisation, and refers them via the police or local authority for assessment by a multi-agency panel. The panel, chaired by the local authority, considers how best to safeguard them and support their vulnerability through a support package tailored to individual needs.

This is similar to the way in which individuals at risk from involvement in crime, drugs and other social issues are supported.

Partnership involvement ensures that those at risk have access to a wide range of support ranging from mainstream services, such as health and education, through to specialist mentoring or faith guidance and wider diversionary activities. Each support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the multi-agency panel.

What factors can put people at risk?

There is no single way of identifying who is likely to be vulnerable in this way. Factors may include: peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self esteem or identity and personal or political grievances.

Who is involved in Channel?

Channel is a multi-agency, early intervention process. Partnership and community involvement is vital to ensure that people most at risk are given support at an early stage. Partners include:

- Local authorities (Adult and Children's Services, etc);
- Education;
- Health;
- Probation, Youth Offending Teams and Prisons;

- Police Service and other emergency services;
- UK Border Agency;
- Community and Voluntary Services; and
- Local communities.

People working in neighbourhood and community safety roles, carrying out home visits, volunteering, working in safeguarding roles or those who are already supporting vulnerable people, may often be the first to see signs of concern.

How do I make a referral or find out more about Channel?

Referrals to the Channel process are coordinated by the police but come from a wide range of sources, including members of the public, social services, youth offending teams and health and education practitioners.

If you work for a partner organisation and want to know more about Channel or have a concern about an individual and want to make a referral, contact your organisation's safeguarding lead.

If you are a community or family member and are concerned about someone please contact your local authority, the police or other trusted, local community organisations for further advice.

For further enquiries about Channel or more information about the work of the ACPO *Prevent* Delivery Unit email ACPOTAMPreventEnquiries@met.pnn.police.uk