

# PREVENT

working in partnership  
under one strategy



How police, partners and communities  
can counter violent extremism  
on the pathway to terrorism



Surrey & Sussex  
Policing Together



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## Terrorism

There is no universal definition of terrorism but this commonly refers to criminal acts intended to provoke a state of terror in the general public. This covers all forms of terrorism, taking into account causes relating to religion, politics and race among others.

## Violent extremism

Violent extremism can be described as the demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which incite, justify or glorify terrorist violence, seek to provoke others to terrorist acts or foster hatred which might lead to inter community violence in the UK.

## Domestic extremism

The term is generally used to describe the activity of individuals or groups carrying out criminal acts of direct action to further their protest campaign. These people and activities usually seek to prevent something from happening or to change legislation or domestic policy, but attempt to do so outside the normal democratic process. The term covers extreme right wing and animal rights extremism.

## Radicalisation

Radicalisation is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo and/or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice (Wilner & Dubouloz, 2010).

# National and local threat levels

## The national threat

The UK faces a continuing threat from international and domestic terrorism.

The UK's Counter Terrorism strategy Contest sets out the steps that need to be taken to protect the public.

Preventing violent extremism in the pathway to terrorism forms a vital part of that strategy.

## The local threat

Surrey and Sussex's location provides challenges for Preventing the emergence of violent extremism and terrorism. The counties have:

- ◆ **Diverse communities which are affected by local, national and international events**
- ◆ **Proximity to key locations which could be used as targets for terrorist attacks; such as Gatwick, London, major motorways and public transport networks**
- ◆ **Remote rural areas which could be used as bases for reconnaissance, training, team building and other planning activity**

While in the UK Jihadist Extremism and its affiliated organisations still pose a major threat, there is also a significant threat from extreme right wing groups and groups motivated by ethical themes. There is a threat from groups focussed on a single issue such as animal rights or the environment. Terrorism can emerge from many different communities. The PREVENT strategy supported by Surrey and Sussex Police and partners aims to deal with terrorism in all its forms proportionately.

Locations that may be at low risk of a terrorist attack can still be used by terrorist or violent extremist organisations for purposes such as equipment storage, recruitment, preparation and training. People who work or live in Sussex and Surrey are best placed to notice activity or behaviour which strikes them as suspicious or unusual. PREVENT aims to make it easier for people to report any suspicions appropriately.

# Contest – reducing the risk of terrorism

Contest is the name of the UK's strategy to respond to the threat of both domestic and international terrorism.

The strategy aims to reduce the risk to the UK and our assets overseas, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

Contest is split into four strands:

- ◆ **PREVENT:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- ◆ **Protect:** to strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks
- ◆ **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks
- ◆ **Prepare:** when an attack cannot be stopped to mitigate its impact.

The remainder of this booklet sets out what the PREVENT strand is all about and shows how you, by supporting PREVENT, can help build resilience in our communities.

## How does PREVENT help tackle terrorism and violent extremism?

The PREVENT strategy was revised in 2011 and has the following three objectives:

1. Challenging terrorist ideology by working closely with other local and national agencies and partners, including our communities.
2. Supporting vulnerable individuals through intervention projects.
3. Work closely with institutions where risks may occur such as education, prisons and health.

## The role of police and partners in PREVENT – what it means for your organisation

Police and partner organisations should be able to identify any terrorist messages and potential signs of individual vulnerability.

All organisations working in partnership to support PREVENT should encourage their staff to be aware of risks of terrorism and be able to report them appropriately. They should be encouraged to consider the risks from terrorism and violent extremism as part of their regular responsibilities.

### The aim of partnership working

Sussex and Surrey Police work with partners to strive to maintain safe and confident neighbourhoods in both counties.

In terms of PREVENT the long term goal is to maintain an effective response to the messages of terrorist groups while ensuring that the strategy is effectively mainstreamed and continuously managed throughout all organisations involved.

### Working in partnership

Sussex and Surrey Police will work with partners to:

- ◆ Engage more fully with diverse communities
- ◆ Understand and learn about local difficulties or tensions and work to address local grievances
- ◆ Manage buildings and locations that may be vulnerable to being used by terrorist organisations
- ◆ Identify interventions to support young people at risk of being recruited by violent extremists and terrorist groups.

# Your role in PREVENT – how can you contribute?

We all have a role to play in ensuring the effective delivery of the PREVENT strategy. Anyone who is active in the local communities is in a position to notice any relevant changes or sensitivities arising.

## What you can do

The strategy is not intended to add to your responsibilities or workload. It simply asks that you are aware of PREVENT, share the strategy with colleagues and keep in mind potential signs of terrorist activity while carrying out your job.

## Sharing with colleagues

- ◆ **Promote awareness of the PREVENT strategy within your organisation and partners, including the local risks, roles and responsibilities involved in its delivery**
- ◆ **Ensure colleagues and partners are aware of how to report any potentially relevant information or concerns**
- ◆ **Promote an understanding amongst colleagues and partners of how to identify indicators of terrorism**
- ◆ **Promote an understanding amongst colleagues and partners of how to identify potential signs of individual vulnerability to radicalisation.**

## Indicators of terrorist activity

There are no typical indicators of what constitutes terrorist activity. However, the examples below would justifiably raise concerns.

- ◆ **A local authority employee notices graffiti that supports extreme right wing organisations**
- ◆ **A teacher hears a child speak of their relative going to Syria for 'army training'**
- ◆ **A mental health worker has concerns about views held by their patient and the people who are influencing them**
- ◆ **A librarian or owner of an internet café notices someone shielding their computer screen all the time**

- ◆ **A frontline worker becomes aware of tensions between two community groups**
- ◆ **An employee is suspicious of a property where there are strange comings and goings that don't seem to fit the normal routine**
- ◆ **A local housing officer is aware of a tenant who is a repeat victim of hate crime**
- ◆ **A large quantity of discarded chemical containers and protective equipment is put out for rubbish outside a property**
- ◆ **A large commercial vehicle is spotted parked or being loaded with materials in an unusual spot**

Other suspicious activity which should be reported includes:

- ◆ **Suspicious activity around potential terrorist targets: 'Hostile reconnaissance' such as taking photographs of security measures or noting details about them, drawing on maps and attempting to obtain sensitive information**
- ◆ **Suspicious regarding potential terrorist funding/forgery: Use of forged travel documents and credit cards**
- ◆ **Suspicious regarding emergency or utility vehicles: Purchasing old marked emergency or utility vehicles, or the suspicious placement of such vehicles**
- ◆ **Suspicious packages: These can be unattended or received through the post. Potential indicators include excess stamp duty and packaging, uneven weight distribution, unusual smell, grease marks and protruding items such as wires and tin foil.**

**Partners: If a suspicious package is received or spotted always dial 999.**

In cases such as these please contact Surrey and Sussex Special Branch on **101** or call the anti-terrorist hotline on **0800 789 321**.

As partners within PREVENT each organisation needs to protect itself from any exploitation by violent extremist or terrorist groups, whether these groups are looking to hold meetings or engage in more direct forms of promotion.

Partners are asked to be aware of any attempts at promotion done by violent extremist or terrorist groups, such as using spaces for posters or leaving a stack of leaflets which promote their ideology, or booking venues for meetings.



## Channel – supporting vulnerable people

While extremism itself is not illegal, we encourage you to be aware of potential signs of it because it can act as a 'pathway' to terrorism and can create or exacerbate tensions in the community.

PREVENT does not aim to criminalise people for holding views; instead, it seeks to stop individuals from going to the extreme of committing or encouraging violent activity.

To support vulnerable people from being radicalised Sussex and Surrey use the national 'Channel' process.

Channel is a process that has developed to provide support to people at risk of being drawn towards terrorism in all its forms. It works in a pre-criminal space as a multi agency process that relies on close collaboration between police, partners and other key stakeholders. Channel provides an appropriate support package tailored to an individuals needs.

Professionals have a duty of care and should report incidents where a person may be at risk of suffering significant harm or in need to support.

If you become aware of individuals vulnerable to terrorism then liaise with your local PREVENT team where an individual can be assessed.

In Sussex please email: [prevent@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

In Surrey please email: [prevent@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

Alternatively you can also contact your local authority PREVENT lead.

## How to report any concerns

Please report information not only when you believe a terrorist attack is being planned, but also activity which could be assisting violent extremist organisations.

PREVENT does not aim to police people's thoughts. However, when there is a possibility that these thoughts might translate into action they must be reported.

### **Trust your instincts; if you suspect it, report it.**

The more detail you can provide the better:

- ◆ **Time and date**
- ◆ **Summary of what happened**
- ◆ **Any visual details such as appearance, make of car etc.**

**Partners:** For potential terrorist or extremist activity you can anonymously call the anti-terrorist hotline on **0800 789 321** or Surrey and Sussex Special Branch on **101**.

For other non urgent concerns relating to violent extremism or community tensions you can contact the **PREVENT SPOC** (special point of contact) person for your organisation or your neighbourhood policing team.

Details of Sussex NPT are on the website: [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk)

Details of Surrey NPT can be found at: [www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)

You can also report suspicious activity anonymously through Crimestoppers **0800 555 111** or via the Sussex or Surrey Police websites shown above.

Extreme organisations make widespread use of the internet for promotion, recruitment and communication.

For all concerns relating to extremist use of the internet contact the internet referral unit at:

[www.gov.uk/report-terrorism](http://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism)

### Illegal use of the internet

The following is regarded as illegal use of the internet:

#### Possessing or sharing information that could be useful to terrorists:

- ◆ **Bomb making instructions**
- ◆ **Poison making instructions**
- ◆ **Instructions on how to make weapons**
- ◆ **Guides to targets.**

#### Sharing information that urges people to commit or assist acts of terrorism:

- ◆ **Speeches, videos, essays or chat forum posts urging others to commit or assist acts of terrorism.**

#### Glorifying terrorism:

- ◆ **Beheading videos**
- ◆ **Videos of previous terrorist/insurgent attacks**
- ◆ **Speeches, videos or postings glorifying terrorist attacks.**

**Messages intended to stir up hatred against any religious, political or ethnic group.**

[www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk)

[www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)

[www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk)

[www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-the-uk-against-terrorism](http://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-the-uk-against-terrorism)

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf)

[www.mi5.gov.uk/home/the-threats/terrorism/threat-levels.html](http://www.mi5.gov.uk/home/the-threats/terrorism/threat-levels.html)

## Further information

For more information on the support listed above please contact the below officers:

◆ **Sussex Police PREVENT Partnership lead Inspector Peter Dommett on 101**

◆ **Surrey Police PREVENT Officer Sergeant Lee Sawkins on 101**

For more information on the support listed above contact Sussex Police PREVENT Partnership lead Inspector Peter Dommett on **101**.



