

Guardians — UK —

Prevent / Anti-Radicalisation Policy

Introduction

Section 26 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act (2015) places a duty on certain bodies 'to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. Guardians UK is one of those bodies as it has a role in protecting vulnerable people and/or our national security.

The Prevent Duty (2015) provides advice for schools and childcare providers:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf

The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Prevent Duty

Guardians UK staff need to be able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. Guardians UK can also build young people's resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. '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. It also includes calls for the death of members of the armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

The general risks affecting children and young people can vary from area to area, and according to their age. Guardians UK Regional Guardians, host families and drivers should be in an important position to identify risks within their local context. Guardians UK also needs to be aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations such as IS as well as far right political groups seek to radicalise young people using social media and the internet.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. Guardians UK staff need to be alert to changes in students' behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Young people at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying young people who might be at risk of radicalisation and react proportionately. Staff will not be expected to unnecessarily intrude into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must act when they observe behaviour of concern.

Website: www.guardiansuk.com Email: info@guardiansuk.com Tel: +44 (0)1823 703199

Training

The Designated Safeguarding Lead DSL (Helen Lewis) & the DDSL undertake Prevent awareness training and provides advice and support to other members of staff on protecting young people from the risk of radicalisation. This happens during a staff member's induction to Guardians UK and is updated at least annually. Students will also be alerted to the Prevent policy upon joining Guardians UK through their Regional Guardian.

The Home Office has developed three e-learning modules useful for Guardians UK staff:

1. Prevent awareness e-learning offers an introduction to the Prevent duty (ideal for staff and Host Families)
<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html>
2. Prevent referral e-learning supports staff to make Prevent referrals that are robust, informed and with good intention (ideal for DSL, DDSL and Directors)
https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/prevent_referrals/01-welcome.html
3. Channel awareness e-learning is aimed at staff who may be asked to contribute to or sit on a multi-agency Channel panel (additional optional training for DSL & DDSL)
https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channel_awareness/01-welcome.html

Procedure

If Guardians UK staff or students do have a concern about a young person, they should follow Guardians UK normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing their concerns with the DSL. Further steps can then be taken by the DSL to refer on to the Local Safeguarding Partnership and/or seek advice from other involved parties such as schools.

Guardians UK DSL/DDSL 24-hour contact number: 01823 703190

In Prevent priority areas of the UK, the local authority will have a Prevent lead who can also provide support.

The local police can also be contacted by dialling 101 (non-emergency number).

The Department for Education (DfE) has a dedicated helpline (Tel: 020 7340 7264) to enable staff to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Email: counter.extremism@education.gov.uk

The helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a young person being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.