

# Prevent Policy and Procedure (PREVENT)

Any person who has concerns regarding the issues identified within this guidance policy should report those concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or to one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL).

**Department: Core Services**

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**Lead Policy: Safeguarding**

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## 1. Policy Statement

YMCA Derbyshire is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults, and to creating a culture of vigilance, professional curiosity and respectful challenge in which abuse, neglect and exploitation are recognised early and acted upon promptly.

This includes protecting individuals from the risk of radicalisation and extremism.

The current threat from terrorism and extremism in the United Kingdom remains real and evolving. Individuals may be exposed to harmful ideologies through a range of routes, including online platforms, peer networks, and wider societal influences. Those who are vulnerable may be at risk of being groomed, exploited or influenced in ways that could lead to harm to themselves or others.

YMCA Derbyshire recognises that radicalisation is fundamentally a safeguarding issue. It is not solely about ideology, but about vulnerability, exploitation, and unmet needs.

Individuals at risk are often experiencing a combination of personal, social or environmental pressures that increase their susceptibility to influence.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the **Safeguarding Policy (Children and Adults)**, which sets out overarching safeguarding principles, reporting expectations and governance arrangements. All Prevent concerns must be managed through the organisation's safeguarding systems and procedures.

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

## 2. Purpose

This policy provides a clear and practical framework to support YMCA Derbyshire staff to:

- Understand radicalisation and extremism
- Recognise vulnerability and risk indicators
- Respond appropriately to concerns
- Record and report concerns consistently
- Work effectively with safeguarding partners
- Embed Prevent within a wider safeguarding culture
- It aims to ensure that responses to Prevent concerns are proportionate, lawful, and focused on protecting individuals from harm.

### 3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All YMCA Derbyshire staff, volunteers, trustees and contractors
- All services, including supported housing, community provision and education
- All individuals accessing YMCA Derbyshire services

Given the nature of YMCA Derbyshire’s work, staff may encounter both adults and children across different settings. A “**Think Family**” approach must be adopted at all times, recognising that risk to one individual may indicate risk to others.

### 4. Legal and Strategic Framework

YMCA Derbyshire’s responsibilities arise from the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**, which places a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Prevent forms part of the Government’s wider **CONTEST strategy**, which includes:

- **Prevent** – stopping people becoming terrorists
- **Pursue** – stopping terrorist attacks
- **Protect** – strengthening protection against attacks
- **Prepare** – mitigating the impact of attacks

Prevent focuses on **early intervention**, safeguarding individuals before criminal behaviour occurs.

This policy is also informed by:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Care Act 2014
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Data Protection Act 2018 / UK GDPR
- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Online Safety Act 2023

### 5. Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion

YMCA Derbyshire is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion, and to building strong, cohesive communities.

We recognise that:

- A sense of belonging and inclusion reduces vulnerability
- Discrimination and marginalisation can increase risk
- Open discussion and critical thinking are protective factors

Our work aims to:

- Promote shared values of respect, tolerance and understanding
- Encourage participation and responsible citizenship
- Challenge prejudice, discrimination and hate
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Prevent must always be applied in a way that is:

- Fair and proportionate
- Free from bias and discrimination
- Based on evidence of vulnerability and risk

Concerns must never be based solely on a person's faith, ethnicity, nationality or background.

## 6. Understanding Radicalisation

Radicalisation is a process by which an individual comes to support extremist ideologies or causes. It is rarely a single event and is more often a gradual process influenced by a range of factors.

Individuals may be drawn towards extremist narratives as a way of making sense of their experiences, particularly where they are facing:

- Identity-related challenges
- Feelings of injustice or grievance
- Experiences of exclusion or discrimination
- Exposure to misinformation or harmful narratives

Radicalisation often involves elements of **grooming and exploitation**, particularly through:

- Online platforms and social media
- Peer groups or networks

- Influential individuals

YMCA Derbyshire recognises that individuals at risk are often vulnerable and in need of support. Early identification and intervention are key to reducing harm.

## **7. Vulnerability and Risk Indicators**

There is no single profile of an individual at risk of radicalisation. Indicators should be considered alongside professional judgement and within the wider context of the individual's circumstances.

### **7.1 Vulnerability Factors**

These may include:

- Identity crisis or lack of belonging
- Isolation or social exclusion
- Family tensions or instability
- Trauma or adverse experiences
- Mental health needs
- Experiences of discrimination or injustice
- Involvement in criminality or exploitation

### **7.2 Behavioural Indicators**

Changes in behaviour may include:

- Withdrawal from usual networks
- Sudden changes in beliefs or identity
- Increased use of extremist narratives
- Fixation on particular grievances
- Changes in appearance or peer group

### **7.3 Access to Extremist Influences**

- Contact with individuals linked to extremism
- Engagement with extremist online content
- Possession or sharing of extremist materials

### **7.4 Critical Risk Indicators**

More serious concerns may include:

- Justifying or promoting violence
- Expressing intent to act
- Attempting to recruit others
- Travel linked to extremist activity

### **7.5 Contextual Risks (Housing and Education)**

Within YMCA Derbyshire settings, additional risks may arise from:

- Peer influence within accommodation
- Online radicalisation and digital grooming
- Exposure to exploitation or criminal networks
- Influences within education or community environments

## **8. Roles and Responsibilities**

Prevent responsibilities are embedded within safeguarding.

### **All Staff**

Must remain alert to concerns, act promptly, and record concerns on MyConcern.

### **Managers**

Must support staff, ensure appropriate action, and promote a transparent safeguarding culture.

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

Acts as Prevent lead, triages concerns, and coordinates referrals and multi-agency working.

### **Governance**

Oversight is provided through safeguarding structures, including the Safeguarding Forum and Board.

## **9. Reporting and Recording Concerns**

All Prevent concerns must be treated as safeguarding concerns.

Staff must:

- Record concerns on MyConcern as soon as possible (same day wherever possible)
- Provide clear, factual information
- Not delay reporting or seek permission

If there is immediate danger:

- Call 999

Concerns will be triaged and managed in line with safeguarding procedures.

## **10. Referral and Intervention**

Where appropriate, referrals may be made to:

- Channel
- Police
- Local authority safeguarding

Channel is a multi-agency safeguarding process that provides support to individuals vulnerable to radicalisation.

The safeguarding team will coordinate all referrals.

## **11. Information Sharing**

Information will be shared:

- On a need-to-know basis
- In line with safeguarding and data protection legislation
- Without consent where necessary to prevent harm

All decisions must be clearly recorded.

## **12. Training**

All staff must complete Prevent awareness training as part of induction and ongoing learning.

Training ensures staff are confident in recognising and responding to concerns.

## **13. Safer Environments and Online Safety**

YMCA Derbyshire recognises the increasing role of online environments in radicalisation.

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We will:

- Promote safe use of technology
- Remain alert to online risks
- Ensure appropriate safeguards within services

## **14. Martyn's Law (Protect Duty)**

YMCA Derbyshire recognises emerging responsibilities under Martyn's Law. We will take proportionate steps to ensure preparedness and safety within premises and events.

## **15. Governance, Quality Assurance and Review**

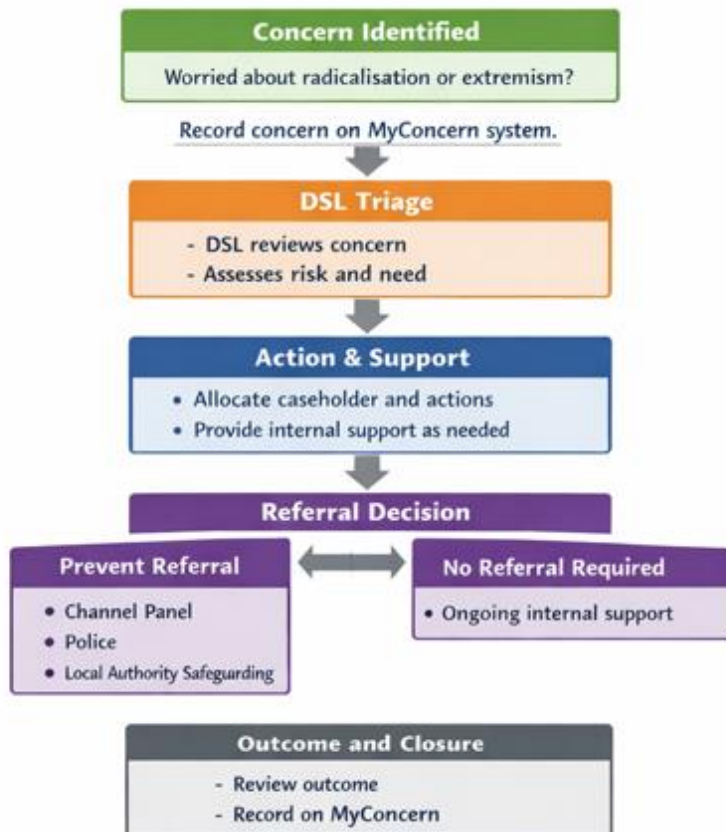
Prevent activity is monitored through safeguarding systems, including:

- Case reviews
- Safeguarding Forum oversight
- Learning from incidents

## **16. Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required due to changes in legislation or learning.

## Appendix A: Prevent Flowchart



Appendix B: Easy Read Guide



# PREVENT

Keeping people safe from extremism



**i** Prevent is about protecting people from being drawn into extremist ideas or behaviours.

**LOOK FOR:**

-  **Changes in behaviour**  
Becoming withdrawn, angry or very different.
-  **Extremist views or language**  
Talking positively about violence or hate.
-  **Isolation or new influence**  
Spending time with new groups or becoming isolated from others.

**WHAT TO DO:**

-  **Call 999**  
If there is immediate danger or risk of harm.
-  **Record on MyConcern**  
Write down what you have seen or heard as soon as possible.
-  **Tell safeguarding**  
Share your concern with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL.

**REMEMBER:**

-  **Do not investigate**  
You are not expected to prove anything.
-  **Ask only basic questions needed for immediate safety and support.**  
Avoid in-depth questioning or trying to get more detail.
-  **Record and report**  
Your concern will be managed by the safeguarding team.

**WHY WE DON'T INVESTIGATE**



**To keep people safe**  
Too many questions can cause distress or put someone at risk.



**To protect evidence**  
Asking lots of questions could affect police or Channel investigations.



**To keep staff within their role**  
Staff are there to recognise, record and report – not to investigate or gather evidence.

**YOUR ROLE IS SIMPLE:**

- 1 NOTICE**  
Be alert to changes or concerns.
- 2 RECORD**  
Log on MyConcern.
- 3 REPORT**  
Tell the safeguarding team straight away.