

## One Minute Guides - Channel - March 2017

### What is Channel?

Channel is part of the Prevent strategy. The Channel process is a multi-agency safeguarding approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism or violent extremism.

Channel focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel works by partners jointly assessing the nature and the extent of the risk and where necessary, providing an appropriate support package tailored to the individual's needs.

The three key stages of Channel are:

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism or violent extremism.
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk; and
- Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel addresses all forms of violent extremism. Referrals can come from a wide range of individuals and partners and could include youth offending teams, social services, health, police, education and local communities. If appropriate, a multi-agency panel is convened to provide appropriate support and intervention.

### Why is it important?

- The threat from terrorism is very real. All the terrorist groups who pose a threat to us seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. To reduce the risk from terrorism we need not only to stop terrorist attacks but also to prevent young people and adults from being drawn or groomed into terrorism or supporting violent extremism, including extreme right wing, Islamist inspired extremism and animal rights among others.
- Channel is available in every local authority in England and Wales. The Channel Panel is chaired by the local authority and provides a range of support, including mentoring, counselling, assistance with employment, training etc.
- Channel is a confidential and voluntary programme. It is up to an individual, or their parents where appropriate, to decide whether to take advantage of the support it offers. It is not any form of criminal or civil sanction.
- Whilst consent is required for intervention support to be provided through the Channel programme, lack of consent should not prohibit the sharing of concerns regarding radicalisation due to the risk of involvement in criminal behaviour or serious harm.

## How do we do it?

Concerns about radicalisation and extremism are treated in the same way as other safeguarding issues, including physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Upon contacting the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), minimum details will be required to progress the enquiry or referral, but consent to share information is not necessary at this point.

The information provided will be considered and assessed by the MASH where the Channel Panel Chair and Prevent Officer will be part of the initial case outcome consideration. Further information gathering may be required.

As part of the initial assessment, a referral for intervention under early help, S.17 or S.47 of the 1989 Children Act or S.42 of the Care Act 2014 will be considered among other support options.

Further liaison will be made with the Channel Panel chair to establish if the Channel panel needs to consider the case, which would be in addition to on-going children's social care or adult's social care intervention and planning.

A joint visit will be made by a social worker and the prevent officer and, where appropriate consent to share information at, and make a referral to, the Channel panel will be obtained.

Where the case meets the Channel threshold and the parents or the adult give consent for discussion, case will be discussed at panel and intervention/ services agreed.

Where case meets threshold for channel but consent is refused, support may be offered through mainstream services or alternative provision, in addition to any on-going children's social care or adult social care intervention and planning.

The case can be closed, subject to any agreed review, when the risks are considered minimised and/or managed through the intervention offered.

### For more information:

Channel Chair - Bryan Stephenson - Adult Social Care

Channel Vice- Chair - Rachel Roberts - Adult Social Care

Children's Social Care Lead - Dave Richards - Children's Social Care

Prevent Officer - Steve Hawkins - Hampshire Constabulary - 101

Prevent Coordinator - Charlie Pericleous - Children, Families and Education

### Portsmouth MASH

#### Children

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#### Adults

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