

Prevent Policy

NHS Devon

Version	7
Policy Sponsor	Chief Nursing Officer
Policy Lead	Cathy Hooper – Prevent Lead
Approved by	Penny Smith, Chief Nursing Officer Piers Tetley, Chief People Officer
Approved on	22/01/2026
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Document change history

Date	Change	Version number of policy	Comments
19/06/2019	Policy Amendment	4	Updates to V3 which reflect: - The formation of NHS Devon and changes to corporate policy format, Publication of CONTEST 2018, Counter Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019, Changes to Prevent Lead details Additional available training or information resources Addition of a Room Hire Standard Operating Procedure
19/09/2019	Policy Amendment	Final draft version 4	Final version to go to NHS Devon CCG Policy Group
14/06/2021	Policy Amendment	5.1	Updated 1.4 Change in current threat level 2.7 Inclusion of mandatory training 4.1.to 4.5 to reflect current NHS England requirements 5.2 Addition of requirements re storage of patient /personal identifiable data 5.7 Link to Home office guidance on information sharing in safeguarding 9.2 New bullet point re Notice Check and Share 11.1 Channel Duty Guidance – republished in 2020 Appendix 2 – Hire of Rooms Standard Operating Procedure
20/08/2021	Policy Amendment	5.2	Section 4 – Roles and Responsibilities – rewritten Section 5 - Amended to include recent NHSEI Guidance on Information sharing and Information Governance for all NHS organisations specifically for Prevent and

			the Channel Process 2021 and exclude narrative re the development of Information sharing guidance 5.1 -5.3 Section 7 – Training moved to after Section 8. How to recognise those at risk of being radicalised moved to after section 9 Appendix 1 The Duty as it applies to CCGs (taken from NHS England CCG Prevent Duties Responsibilities published July 2015) – removed as summarised in paragraph 10.1. Appendix 2 - Hire of rooms Standard Operating Procedure: now Appendix 1 Appendix 4 - Flowcharts for Making a Prevent Referral and the Channel Process – replaced with new flow charts: now Appendix 3 Appendix 4 - Guidance for CCG Safeguarding professionals attending Channel Panels replaces previous Appendix 4
12/02/2024	Policy Amendment	6	Policy on to new ICB Template and updates in line with PREVENT Duty Guidance 2023, Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) 2023 and the Channel Duty Guidance 2023
23/12/2025	Policy Review	7	Policy reviewed, no changes required.

Equality, diversity and inclusion statement

NHS Devon is committed to the promotion of equal opportunities, addressing health inequalities and fostering of good relations between people protected under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and Human Rights legislation. We are equally committed to the elimination of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation. To demonstrate this commitment, we develop, promote and maintain policies, strategies and operating procedures. Every effort is made to ensure that patients, employees, contractors or visitors do not experience discrimination; either directly or indirectly, because of their vulnerability; disadvantage; age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief; sex (gender) or sexual orientation.

All staff must comply with this policy. Compliance must reflect our organisational commitment to and policy on, equality, diversity and inclusion. In addition, each manager and member of staff involved in implementing this policy must give due regard to the needs of those protected under law.

If you, or any other groups, believe you are discriminated against under the terms of the Equality Act, the Health and Social Care Act 2012 or Human Rights legislation by anything contained in this document; or you need this document in an alternative

format, for example, large print, Braille, Easy read or other languages; please contact our Patient Advice and Complaints Team (PACT):

Tel: 0300 123 1672

Email: d-icb.patientexperience@nhs.net

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 NHS Devon Integrated Care Board has a statutory duty under, the Counter Terrorism Act (2015)¹ and the Counter Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019² and, in response to the Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST)³ (revised 2023) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.
- 1.2 The CONTEST Strategy aims to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK to enable people to live their lives freely and in confidence.
- 1.3 Prevent remains one of the key pillars of CONTEST, alongside the three other 'P' strands:
 - **Prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
 - **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks
 - **Protect:** to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
 - **Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack
- 1.4 The objectives of Prevent are to:
 - Tackle the ideological causes of terrorism.
 - Intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation.
 - Enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.
- 1.5 The primary aim of Prevent is to safeguard people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and reduce intent. Prevent training supports this through the early identification of those who may be most at risk of radicalisation and provides those who are concerned about individuals with the knowledge of how to refer those individuals, so they can be offered support, through "Channel".
- 1.6 The voluntary Channel programme forms a key part of safeguarding and supporting individuals identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, by providing tailored support through the Channel panel. This is a Local Authority led multi-agency panel, which decides on the most appropriate support package for that person. The health sector plays a pivotal role in providing appropriate health services for an individual's needs, whether that be through primary care, mental health services or wider support services.

2. Purpose and objectives

¹ [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/legislation/counter-terrorism-act-2015)

² [Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2019/10/section/1)

³ [Counter-terrorism strategy \(CONTEST\) 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/strategies/counter-terrorism-strategy-2023)

2.1 This policy sets out the responsibilities of NHS Devon and its staff to meet the duties of the Counter Terrorism Act 2015⁴.

2.2 This policy describes how NHS Devon will:

- Meet and monitor its statutory duty to Counter Terrorism including Prevent and Channel as part of its safeguarding duties.
- Assure itself of effective Prevent arrangements in the services it commissions.
- Work with Local Safeguarding Adult and Children Boards, Devon and Cornwall Police, NHS England, Local Authorities, and other key partners to develop and improve Prevent practices across the whole health economy.
- Ensure Prevent is considered as part of our safeguarding adult and children responsibilities.

3. Scope

3.1 This policy applies to all staff within NHS Devon.

3.2 This policy also covers NHS Devon staff who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and violent extremism or have concerns about other members of staff being involved in terrorist activities.

4. Definitions

Terms	Definition
Terrorism	Acting or threatening to endanger lives or use serious violence towards property or people, in order to cause intimidation and advance a cause.
Radicalisation	The act or process through which someone comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. It is a form of exploitation which can involve people being influenced and coerced into extremism.
Extremism	Views and ideas which are opposed to British values – such as democracy, the rule of law, individual freedom, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

5. Key aspects of Prevent

⁴ [B0818 Safeguarding-children-young-people-and-adults-at-risk-in-the-NHS-Safeguarding-accountability-and-assuran.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

5.1 Understanding and Recognising Risks and Vulnerabilities of Radicalisation

- 5.1.1 There is no such thing as a 'typical extremist' and those involved in extremism come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. There is no obvious profile of a person likely to become involved in terrorist-related activity, or single indicator of when a person might move to support extremism. Vulnerable individuals who may be susceptible to radicalisation can be patients or staff. Radicalisers often use a persuasive rationale or narrative and are usually charismatic individuals who can attract people to their cause which is based on a particular interpretation or distortion of history, politics or religion.
- 5.1.2 Vulnerable individuals may be exploited in many ways by those who would seek to radicalise them and this can be through the influence of: family members or friends; direct contact with extremist groups and organisations; or through travel to conflict zones or high risk areas, either as part of charitable work or on holiday; leaflets, direct face to face contact, or increasingly through the internet, social networking or other media. This can put a person at risk of being drawn into criminal activity and has the potential to cause significant harm.
- 5.1.3 Those seeking to radicalise others, either in the name of Islam or extreme right-wing ideology fully exploit the power and speed of the internet to promote their narratives, influencing those with extreme views within our own communities to disrupt our way of life through acts of violence. They groom the vulnerable and the young to join or support their cause and inspire people within our own communities to harm others. The availability of online extremist materials provides significant opportunities for individuals to independently adopt violent extremist views and plan terrorist acts. These individuals are sometimes referred to as self-initiated terrorists (this has replaced the term "lone actors").
- 5.1.4 The risk of radicalisation is the product of several factors and identifying this risk requires that staff exercise their professional judgement, seeking further advice as necessary. The risk may be combined with other vulnerabilities or may be the only risk identified.
- 5.1.5 Children and young people and adults with care and support needs may be vulnerable to exploitation or to involvement with groups or individuals who advocate violence as a means to a political or ideological end and are at risk of being radicalised by these groups or individuals. The appropriate response to these concerns may be from a safeguarding perspective, and as such referrals should also be made to the appropriate local authority's safeguarding team.

5.2 How to recognise those at risk of being radicalised

- 5.2.1 There is no single way of identifying who is likely to be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Factors that may have a bearing on someone becoming vulnerable may include:
- Peer or family pressure
 - Influence from other people or via the internet
 - Bullying
 - Being a victim or perpetrator of crime
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Family tensions
 - Hate crime
 - Lack of self-esteem or identity
 - Personal or political grievances
- 5.2.2 The journey to becoming radicalised is different for everyone. Radicalisation can take place very quickly, or over a long period of time.
- 5.2.3 More important than any one specific sign is the sense that something is not quite right with the person you are worried about. You could spot one sign, or a combination of signs that seem to be increasing in intensity. There are, however, certain behaviours that can be seen when an individual is being led down the path of extremism.
- 5.2.4 Act Early⁵ provides more information about the signs that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

5.3 How to report your concerns

- **If there is an immediate risk to life ring 999**
 - If you have concerns that someone is being radicalised, in the first instance discuss these with the NHS Devon Prevent Lead.
 - Concerns about staff members will also be discussed with their line manager and HR to consider the most appropriate response from a safeguarding perspective, which may include a Prevent referral as outlined below.
 - You can also contact the Devon and Cornwall Police Prevent Team through [Prevent | Devon & Cornwall Police \(devon-cornwall.police.uk\)](https://devon-cornwall.police.uk) or you can email Prevent@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk or call the team on 01392 225130.
 - Information on reporting possible online terrorist activity can be obtained from the Home Office website www.direct.gov.uk/reportingonlineterrorism
- 5.3.1 The NHS Devon Prevent Lead can offer advice and ensure that the right support is put in place for anyone who there may be concern about via d-icb.sguard@nhs.net

⁵ [What are the signs of radicalisation? | ACT Early](#)

- 5.3.2 Once a referral has been made via the Police referral mechanism, a multi-agency Channel panel will determine if it meets the threshold to be submitted to a formal multi-agency process.

5.4 Training

- 5.4.1 NHS Devon has a responsibility to ensure that all staff receive the appropriate level of training on Prevent as outlined in the [Safeguarding Training Strategy and Matrix](#).

- 5.4.2 Additional e-learning and resources are available.

- [Prevent duty training - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) – raises awareness about radicalisation and helps you identify the signs to look out for.
- [E-Learning | ProtectUK](#) – offers practical guidance on protecting your organisation from a terrorist incident.
- [Home - Preventing Exploitation Toolkit](#) – online toolkit designed to assist your understanding of radicalisation and other forms of exploitation and helps you report concerns.

6 Accountabilities, Duties and Responsibilities

Chief Executive	The Chief Executive has ultimate accountability for the strategic direction and operational management of NHS Devon, including compliance with all legal, statutory and policy requirements.
Policy Sponsor – Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)	The CNO is responsible for: • ensuring that policy is appropriate for consideration for approval; • endorsing this policy ahead of submission for approval; • with the Policy Lead, maintaining and updating procedures/protocols and other supporting documents for this policy; • providing strategic leadership for Prevent. • ensuring the governing body is appraised of appropriate Prevent related issues.
Head of Safeguarding	• ensuring NHS Devon’s statutory Prevent functions are met. • providing assurance regarding the Prevent agenda to the Governing Body
NHS Devon Prevent Lead	It is the responsibility of the NHS Devon Prevent Lead to: • ensure that the policy is in line with Department of Health and Social Care guidance, legal requirements and advice from clinical bodies. • to complete a QEIA and Implementation Plan where required.

	• undertake a fair and proportionate consultation period with the relevant stakeholders as part of the document's development. • to ensure that the policy is in alignment with NHS Devon's strategy and values. • ensure that the policy is developed, approved, disseminated, and monitored as set out in the document; with Policy Sponsors, maintaining and updating procedures / protocols and other supporting documents for this policy. • Working with Partners to achieve the objectives of Prevent across the system. • Attendance at CONTEST Board. • Attendance at Prevent Partnerships. • Attendance at NHS England SW Regional Prevent Group. • Submission of annual CTLP. • Monitoring and implementation of actions identified within the CTLP. • Ensuring Prevent is linked to both adults and children's safeguarding agendas. • Ensuring all NHS Devon staff have an awareness of the Prevent agenda and that NHS Devon staff requiring Level 3, 4 or 5 safeguarding adults or children training receive appropriate Prevent training according to their role and competency requirements. • ensuring the Prevent agenda is integral to the ICB's commissioning and governance functions. - ensuring that contract specifications include clear service standards for Prevent
Titles of any Committee	Relevant papers will be submitted to the Safeguarding and Protection of Vulnerable People Steering Group, with issues escalated to the South West Peninsula People, Customer Experience and Equity Committee as appropriate.
Line Managers	Line managers have a responsibility to ensure their staff comply with NHS Devon policies and standards within their areas of responsibility.
All Staff	Employed or engaged staff have a duty to comply with NHS Devon policies and standards as outlined in their contracts of employment and codes of conduct. Additional responsibilities in relation to Prevent are to take preventive action and support those individuals who may be at risk of, or are being drawn into, terrorist-related activity.

7 Implementation

- 7.1 All staff will be informed of the approval of the Policy via the Staff Bulletin which will provide a link to the document on the NHS Devon Intranet.

7.2 NHS Devon Senior Managers, or their designated representatives, will implement this policy by:

- Notifying all staff of its existence. New staff will be informed of this policy as part of their induction.
- Destroying all superseded paper-based versions of the policy and electronic versions retained in their area.
- Having adequate knowledge of, and access to all relevant legislation to ensure that compliance with such legislation is maintained.
- Discussing with staff as part of their regular one-to-ones how they seek to achieve their individual objectives around policy review and maintenance.

8 Approval and Review

8.1 The Prevent Policy is approved by the Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Medical Officer.

8.2 This policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if required, in order to ensure that it is current, relevant and reflects the strategic aims, objectives, organisational structures and responsibilities of NHS Devon.

9 Monitoring compliance and effectiveness

9.1 This policy will be subject to audit in line with the NHS Devon internal audit plan. Areas for consideration will be training compliance, referrals made, and issues managed.

10 Quality & Equality Impact Assessment (QEIA)

10.1 As this is a not a new policy, a QEIA is not required.

11 References

11.1 Legislation and statutory requirements:

[Independent Review of Prevent 2023](#)

[The response to the Independent Review of Prevent 2023](#)

[Counter-terrorism strategy \(CONTEST\) 2023](#)

[Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales \(2023\)](#)

[NHS Prevent training and competencies framework - 2022](#)

[Channel Duty Guidance: 2020](#)

