

U16

Prevent (Counter Terrorism Policy)

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Policy Statement

FuturU is committed to the Government's policy to reduce the risk of terrorist attacks (known as CONTEST) through its Prevent strategy. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies, listed in Schedule 3 of the Act, to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. These statutory bodies include: Education, Health, Social Care and Police.

Radicalisation is understood to mean the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. Extremism is understood 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.

As an education provider, the Prevent strategy requires us to identify and respond to any of any learners who appear to be at risk of supporting or taking part in terrorist acts as defined in the government's strategy guidance. The need for vigilance is required because it is known that vulnerable people are often targeted by terrorist groups and organisations for the purposes of radicalisation and potential participation in terrorist activities.

What is Identification

By "identification" is meant becoming aware of and recognising when individuals or groups of vulnerable people receiving our services are at risk of being or have been radicalised into an ideology that achieves its ends through terrorist acts.

What is Responding

By "responding" is meant the safeguarding of that individual or group from further exposure to the risk of radicalisation and possible taking part in terrorist acts. "Responding" includes the reporting of any concerns about anyone who is expressing a close interest in terrorist thinking and activities and anyone who is suspected of having been radicalised and who might be taking part in illegal acts.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy.

What are signs of vulnerability

There is no single way to identify who is likely to be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a person's vulnerability.

Factors that may have a bearing on someone becoming vulnerable may include:

- Loneliness or isolation leading to negative influence from other people or via the internet
- Drugs, gangs, violence and crime against them or their involvement in crime, such as race/hate crime, antisocial behaviour and so on
- Family tensions and breakdown, poverty, homelessness and lack of self-esteem
- Personal or political grievances or recent political or religious conversion
- Sexual exploitation, physical or mental abuse

Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media) and settings (such as the internet).

Training

We are committed to making sure that all staff have the competences to identify and report behaviour that puts an individual at risk of radicalisation and becoming a terrorist. As such, safeguarding awareness training for staff includes coverage of Prevent Duty.

Identification

All staff as a result of understanding this policy and training should be alert to recognise when any vulnerable individual or group might be exploited by other individuals or groups for the purpose of involving them in terrorist acts. They also need to be alert to any individual or group becoming exposed to material or influences that place them at risk of exploitation or actively taking part in terrorist acts. Sources of exposure include membership of institutions that are known to promote terrorist thinking and radicalisation (including self-radicalisation), social networks and the internet including social media.

Responding

Staff are expected to report to the Safeguarding Manager any concerns and information indicating that a vulnerable individual or group is being exposed to harmful influences that could result in their taking part in terrorist acts or suspicions or evidence that they are taking part in terrorist acts.

The Safeguarding Manager will then assess the situation, which will include assessing the risks of any escalation of the terrorist threats posed by the individual or group. The outcome of this assessment will decide the course of action that follows. The aim will be to prevent and protect learners from being caught up in terrorist activities so that they do not suffer significant harm and expose others to significant harm.

Revision History

Revision date	Version	Author	Revision Summary
July 2024	1.1	Head of Quality & Compliance	Updated to new policy format. Role titles updated.
April 2025	1.2	HoQ&C	Updated to new format