

POLICY TITLE:	Responding to Suspected Radicalisation
Policy Number:	AOP08.1
Version Number:	03
Applies to:	All Aspris Colleagues
Date of Issue:	26/07/2023
Date of Review:	25/07/2024
Policy Owner:	Katie Dorrian, Group Head of Safeguarding Lead
Ratified by:	Katie Dorrian, Group Head of Safeguarding Lead
Responsible signatory:	Jane Stone, Director of Governance and Risk
Outcome:	<p>This policy aims to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides advice, guidance and information for colleagues should they wish to raise concerns about an individual who may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism or committing terrorist acts.
Cross Reference:	<p>AOP05 Mental Capacity AOP06 Safeguarding Children in Education AOP06A Safeguarding Children in Residential Care AOP06B Safeguarding Children in Education - Wales AOP06.1 Child Protection (Scotland) AOP08 Safeguarding Adults AOP08.3 Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) AOP21 Whistleblowing (Protected Disclosure) AHR04.2 Disciplinary Procedure AEL03 Data Protection ALE05 Young Person Information Interview Requests from Police or Other External Agencies</p>

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Aspris is committed to the fair treatment of all in line with the Equality Act 2010. An equality impact assessment has been completed on this policy to ensure that it can be implemented consistently regardless of any protected characteristics and all will be treated with dignity and respect.

This policy covers all parts of Aspris Services – The Care and Education Divisions; Central services and our Fostering service. For the Fostering service and the 2 operational divisions, there are local procedures that relate to some of these policies, where necessary.

In order to ensure that this policy is relevant and up to date, comments and suggestions for additions or amendments are sought from users of this document. To contribute towards the process of review, email AsprisGovernanceHelpdesk@Aspris.com

RESPONDING TO SUSPECTED RADICALISATION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 CONTEST, the government's national counter terrorism strategy, aims to reduce the risk to the United Kingdom and its interests overseas from international terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.
- 1.2 These forms of terrorism include, but are not limited to:
- (a) Al-Qa'ida and IS influenced groups
 - (b) Far right extremists
 - (c) Environmental extremists
 - (d) Animal rights extremists.
- 1.3 CONTEST has four strategic work streams:
- (a) Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks
 - (b) Protect: to strengthen our protection against terrorist attack
 - (c) Prepare: where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact
 - (d) *Prevent*: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- 1.4 Preventing someone from becoming a terrorist or supporting terrorism is no different from safeguarding vulnerable individuals from other forms of exploitation. Therefore, this policy should be read alongside:
- AOP06 Safeguarding Children in Education
 - AOP06A Safeguarding Children in Residential Care
 - AOP06B Safeguarding Children in Education - Wales
 - AOP06.1 Child Protection (Scotland)
 - AOP08 Safeguarding Adults
 - AOP08.3 Adult Support and Protection (Scotland)
- 1.5 This policy applies to all colleagues employed by Aspris Children Services, either directly or indirectly, including volunteers and to any other person or organisation that uses Aspris for any purpose.

2 AIM & PURPOSE

- 2.1 The key aim of this policy is to identify how colleagues will be supported to develop an understanding of the *Prevent* Strategy and how they can utilise their existing knowledge and skills to recognise that someone may have been, or is being radicalised.
- 2.2 This policy sets out where colleagues can seek advice and how to escalate their concerns. Where concerns need to be raised with external agencies, this policy describes how referrals will be managed within the existing multi-agency safeguarding processes.
- 2.3 This policy sets out how *Prevent* related referrals or requests for information from external agencies will be managed.

3 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE *PREVENT* STRATEGY

- 3.1 The *Prevent* Strategy 2011 addresses all forms of terrorism and non-violent extremism which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists then exploit. *Prevent* deals with all kinds of terrorist threats to the UK. The most significant of these threats is currently from organisations in Syria, Iraq and Al Qa'ida and IS associated groups. Terrorists associated with the extreme right wing also pose a continued threat to safety and security. The aim of *Prevent* is to stop people from becoming terrorists (often referred to as being radicalised) or supporting terrorism. It operates in the pre-criminal space before any criminal activity has taken place.

- 3.2 A wide range of public facing bodies; including all schools and colleges have been subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- 3.2.1 In the exercise of their functions; they are required to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This is known as 'Prevent duty'
- 3.3 The three key objectives of the *Prevent* Strategy are to:
- (a) Challenge the **ideology** that supports terrorism and those who promote it
 - (b) Prevent vulnerable **individuals** from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
 - (c) Work with sectors and **institutions** where there are risks of radicalisation.
- 3.4 Services such as those provided by Aspris are expected to be involved in delivering objectives (a) and (b) only.

4 PROCESS OF EXPLOITATION

- 4.1 Evidence suggests that there is no obvious profile of a person who is likely to become involved in terrorist-related activity, or single indicator of when a person might move to support extremism. However, the increasing body of information indicates that factors thought to relate to personal experiences of vulnerable individuals affect the way in which they relate to their personal environment and may make them susceptible to exploitation or supporting terrorist activities (See 4.4). Vulnerable individuals who may be susceptible to radicalisation can be children / young people we support, carers or colleagues.
- 4.2 Radicalisers often use a persuasive rationale or narrative and are usually charismatic individuals who are able to attract people to their cause which is based on a particular interpretation or distortion of history, politics and/or religion.
- 4.3 The key challenge for the health, education and social care sector is to ensure that, where there are signs that someone has been or is being drawn into terrorism, that all colleagues are aware of the support available and are confident in referring the person for further support.
- 4.4 **Vulnerability Factors** - Radicalisers usually attract people to their cause through a persuasive rationale contained within a storyline or narrative that has the potential to influence views. Inspiring new recruits, embedding the beliefs of those with established extreme views and/or persuading others of the legitimacy of their cause is the primary objective of those who seek to radicalise vulnerable individuals.
- 4.4.1 **What factors might make someone vulnerable?** - In terms of personal vulnerability, the following factors may make individuals susceptible to exploitation. None of these are conclusive in themselves and therefore should not be considered in isolation but in conjunction with the particular circumstances and any other signs of radicalisation:
- Identity crisis – Children / young people** who are exploring issues of identity can feel both distant from their parents/family and cultural and religious heritage, and uncomfortable with their place in society around them. Radicalisers can exploit this by providing a sense of purpose or feelings of belonging. Where this occurs, it can often manifest itself in a change in a person's behaviour, their circle of friends, and the way in which they interact with others and spend their time.
 - Personal crisis** - This may, for example, include significant tensions within the family that produce a sense of isolation of the vulnerable individual from the traditional certainties of family life.
 - Personal circumstances** - The experience of migration, local tensions or events affecting families in countries of origin may contribute to alienation from UK values and a decision to cause harm to symbols of the community or state.

Unemployment or under-employment - Individuals may perceive their aspirations for career and lifestyle to be undermined by limited achievements or employment prospects. This can translate to a generalised rejection of civic life and adoption of violence as a symbolic act.

Criminality - In some cases a vulnerable individual may have been involved in a group that engages in criminal activity or, on occasion, a group that has links to organised crime and be further drawn to engagement in terrorist-related activity.

Grievances - The following are examples of grievances which may play an important in the early indoctrination of vulnerable individuals into the acceptance if a radical view and extremist ideology:

- (a) A misconception and/or rejection of UK foreign policy
- (b) A distrust of Western media reporting
- (c) Perceptions that UK government policy is discriminatory, for example counter-terrorism legislation)
- (d) Ideology and politics
- (e) Provocation and anger (grievance)
- (f) Need for protection
- (g) Seeking excitement and action
- (h) Fascination with violence, weapons and uniforms
- (i) Youth rebellion
- (j) Seeking family and father substitutes
- (k) Seeking friends and community
- (l) Seeking status and identity.

5 INTERNET USAGE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- 5.1 Children / Young people may be exploited in many ways by radicalisers and this could be through direct face to face contact, or indirectly through the internet, social networking or other media.
- 5.2 Social media is a popular and extensively used method of communication, but it can be misused to try to radicalise and recruit vulnerable people. Instances have been reported of young and vulnerable people being encouraged to leave the UK to travel to join terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq.
- 5.3 Access to extremist material is often through leaflets and local contacts. However, the internet plays an important role in the communication of extremist views. It provides a platform for extremists to promote their cause and encourage debate through websites, internet forums and social networking. It is a swift and effective mechanism for disseminating propaganda material and is not always possible to regulate. Depending on the service, local procedures on accessing the Internet must be complied with.
- 5.4 Colleagues should be aware of anyone making frequent visits to websites showing images such as armed conflict around the world and providing speeches and access to material from those involved in the radicalising process.
- 5.5 A dedicated website to report suspected terrorism or suspicions that some may be involved in terrorism is available at:
www.direct.gov.uk/en/CrimeJusticeAndTheLaw/Counterterrorism/DG_183993

You can also:

- (a) Call the police or Report your suspicions to them online.
- (b) Report suspicious activity to MI5.
- (c) Report online terrorist material.

You can remain anonymous, however will be encouraged to provide your contact information.

6 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 Radicalisation is a process not a one off event, and there is no single route or pathway to radicalisation. Evidence indicates that those targeted by radicalisers may have doubts about what they are doing. It is because of this doubt that frontline colleagues need to have mechanisms and interventions in place to support an individual being exploited and to help them move away from terrorist activity. Therefore, the UK Government is clear about the responsibilities that organisations such as Aspris have with regard to delivering the *Prevent* strategy.
- 6.2 Aspris Children Services has a duty to ensure safe environments where extremists are unable to operate. It is essential, therefore, that all colleagues know how they can support children / young people who they feel may be at risk of becoming a terrorist or supporting extremism. *Prevent* is an on-going initiative and designed to become part of the everyday safeguarding routine.
- 6.3 Specific responsibilities include:
- 6.3.1 **Executive Safeguarding Lead** (Aspris Director of Governance and Risk) – Prevent Lead and devolves the responsibility for compliance and monitoring ensuring that the organisation meets its statutory and non-statutory obligations in respect of Prevent. Board level leadership and responsibility for *Prevent* rests with the ESL and the Board will receive regular reports on *Prevent* related matters via the monthly safeguarding report. As *Prevent* Lead and Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Prevent, the will work in partnerships with safeguarding colleagues across the organisation
- 6.3.2 **Service Managers** - are responsible for ensuring that all employees are aware of this policy and the relevance to everyday practice and for ensuring that colleagues have received appropriate training in relation to patient and carers rights.
- 6.3.3 **All Colleagues** - have a responsibility to familiarise themselves with this policy and to adhere to its process. All colleagues MUST complete online Home Office training via the learning lounge or **YOU HAVE ACCESSED THE E-LEARNING TRAINING ON PREVENT**

7 RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT SERVICE USERS

- 7.1 In the event that a colleague has concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism, has begun to express radical extremist views or may be vulnerable to grooming or exploitation by others, the primary point of contact will most often be the local safeguarding team. Colleagues can also contact their local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). The police will talk to colleagues in confidence about concerns and help them to obtain access to support and advice.
- 7.1.1 The Department for Education has a dedicated telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable Education Division colleagues to raise concerns relating to radicalisation. Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk.
- 7.1.2 The ESL (Aspris Director of Governance and Risk) as *Prevent* Lead will support this process as required.
- 7.2 All such concerns should be discussed with the service user's care team prior to referral. If it is determined that a safeguarding referral needs to be made, this should be completed in accordance with local inter-agency safeguarding procedures. Colleagues can also seek general advice from the Safeguarding lead or DSL/DDSL. A Raising a *Prevent* Concern form (**AOP Form: 20**) should also be completed and sent to your safeguarding hub and the local Police force.

- 7.3 Local authorities are required to establish a local programme of 'Channel Panels' to provide support for people, children and adults who are identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. If we refer to the Social Worker, they should follow the relevant LA Referrals Procedure. Consideration of referrals to the Channel programme may be appropriate in some cases. Any response should be proportionate, with the emphasis on supporting vulnerable children and young people, unless there is evidence of more active involvement in extremist activities

8 ESCALATING CONCERNS ABOUT A COLLEAGUE (INCLUDING AGENCY)

- 8.1 Although there are relatively few instances of health, care or education colleagues radicalising others or being drawn into extremist acts, it is still a risk that the organisation needs to be aware of and have processes within which to manage any concerns for example disciplinary action.
- 8.2 Where any employee expresses views, brings material into the organisation, uses or directs service users to extremist websites or acts in other ways to promote terrorism, Aspris will look to use non-safeguarding processes in order to address the concerns.
- 8.3 Where a colleague has a concern about a colleague, this should be raised with their line manager. (The processes in AOP21 Whistleblowing (Protected Disclosure) can also be used for reporting concerns.) The Line Manager will discuss the concerns with the appropriate senior manager, the Aspris *Prevent* Lead and Human Resources Advisor in the first instance. In all such cases the Aspris *Prevent* Lead will support the completion of/complete a Raising a *Prevent* Concern form (**AOP Form: 20**).
- 8.4 The Aspris *Prevent* Lead will liaise with the Aspris Director of Risk and Governance order to assess and manage any related safeguarding risks and, where appropriate, the appropriate Police *Prevent* Lead. The Human Resources Advisor will lead on advising the line manager in relation to the disciplinary process should this be appropriate.
- 8.5 Where colleagues work with children, a referral to the LADO/on duty or principle Social worker should be considered in line with local procedures. See AOP06 Safeguarding Children.

9 PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- 9.1 It should be stressed that there is no expectation that Aspris will take on a surveillance or enforcement role in response to the *Prevent duty*. Rather, it must work with partner organisations to contribute to the prevention of terrorism by safeguarding and protecting children / young people and making safety a shared endeavour.
- 9.2 The Aspris *Prevent* Lead will engage where necessary with partnership groups with the responsibility to share concerns raised within the organisation.
- 9.3 The Aspris *Prevent* Lead and/or delegated colleague will represent Aspris Group at local *Prevent* Steering Groups and, as appropriate, Channel meetings. (Channel is the process through which statutory partners agree the appropriate level of support to an individual at risk of being drawn into terrorism or committing terrorist acts).

10 CONFIDENTIALITY, INFORMATION SHARING AND DISCLOSURE

- 10.1 Aspris colleagues or other workers providing services on behalf of Aspris Group must ensure they share information appropriately, both professionally and legally when there is a safeguarding concern and in-line with the Information Commissioner's Guidance set out in ALE03 Data Protection.

- 10.2 *Prevent* ultimately aims to ensure the active engagement of the child/ young person and is at a pre-criminal stage, however consent is not required from the individual involved prior to a *Prevent* referral being made.
- 10.3 If colleagues are uncertain about information sharing or consent issues, they should seek advice from Aspris Legal Team All information shared must comply with all relevant data protection requirements.
- 10.4 Any disclosures or discussions on information sharing or consent should be recorded in the child's / young persons record.

11 REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT AN INDIVIDUAL RAISED BY ANOTHER ORGANISATION

- 11.1 Generally, requests for information should be in writing, justifying the grounds for disclosure, and submitted to the manager of the service from which the information is sought. However, with concerns relating to preventing individuals from becoming drawn into terrorism, sharing information may become routine. The seriousness of the potential crime and the risk of harm to the individual may outweigh the need to maintain confidentiality. The amount of information shared should be appropriate and proportionate to the concern raised.
- 11.2 In situations where there are concerns about radicalisation and/or extremism where **disclosures to (or information sharing with) the police may become routine**, a formal protocol should be developed by the *Aspris Prevent* Lead together with relevant divisional colleagues and agreed between the organisation and the police, so that all colleagues involved know what to do.
- 11.3 **NB:** The **Crime and Disorder Act 1998** (see Appendix 3) does not in itself constitute a statutory requirement for organisations such as Aspris to disclose children/young people user information to other agencies. This should be determined on a case by case basis with an informed *Aspris Prevent* Lead.
- 11.4 If the *Aspris Prevent* Lead is asked to share information for the purposes of preventing an individual from being drawn into terrorism the following question should be considered:
- (a) By sharing the information, is the intention to protect the individual from criminal exploitation, grooming (being drawn into terrorism) or self-harm?
 - (b) In sharing information, is a serious crime being prevented or detected?
 - (c) Is the information that has been requested appropriate to the risk of the serious crime of exploitation to the individual who may be drawn into supporting terrorism?
 - (d) In being drawn into terrorism does this individual pose harm to themselves or the wider public?
 - (e) Can the public interest justification be clearly stated?
- (If in doubt, seek legal advice via Legalmailbox@aspris.com)

12 COLLEAGUE TRAINING

- 12.1 Aspris adheres to the guidance provided in the DfE (Current Version) Keeping children safe in education.
- 12.2 All colleagues receive an introduction to *Prevent* by completing the Home Office *Prevent* Training as part of the mandatory safeguarding training modules that should be completed after joining Aspris.
- 12.3 The *Prevent* Lead will ensure that a WRAP delivery plan, which is sufficiently resourced with WRAP facilitators, is also included in the organisation's safeguarding training portfolio.
- 12.4 Access to appropriate and approved training must be authorised by completing a training request via Learning and Development.

13 REFERENCES

13.1 Legislation

Care Act 2014
Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015
Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Data Protection Act 2018
Equality Act 2010
Human Rights Act 1998
Terrorism Act 2006

13.2 Guidance

[Statutory Prevent Duty Guidance](#) (linksto guidance for England, Scotland and Wales) (revised 1 April 2021)
Department for Education (2015) The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers
Department of Health (2011) Safeguarding Adults: The role of health services
Home Office and Department for Education (2015) How Social Media is Used to Encourage Travel to Syria and Iraq. Briefing note for schools

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Information Sharing

Appendix 2 – Reporting flow chart for Raising Concerns

Appendix 3 – Definitions of Terms

Associated Forms:

AOP Form: 20 – Raising a 'Prevent' Concern

APPENDIX 1

Information Sharing

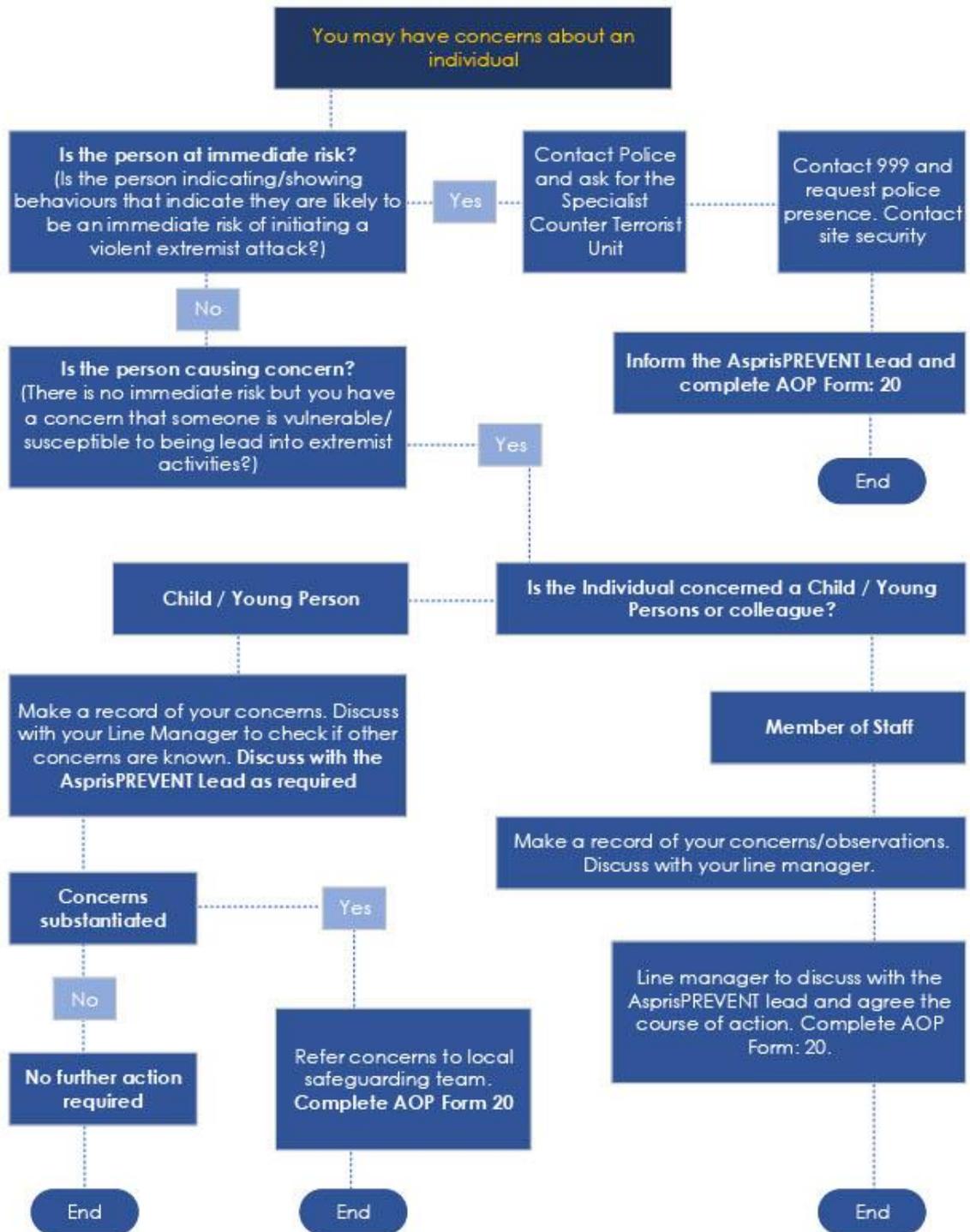
There are some statutory reasons to share information without consent of the individual according to statutory guidelines. Listed below is the ground in which sharing information is legal:

Prevention and detection of crime	Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Prevention and detection of crime and/or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders	Data Protection Act 2018, Section 29
To protect vital interests of the data subject; serious harm or matter of life or death	Data Protection Act 2018,
For the administration of justice (usually bringing perpetrators to justice)	Data Protection Act 2018
For the exercise of functions conferred on any person by or under any enactment (police/social services)	Data Protection Act 2018
Child protection – disclosure to social services or the police for the exercise of functions under the Children Act, where the public interest in safeguarding the child's welfare overrides the need to keep the information confidential	Data Protection Act 2018
Right to life Right to be free from torture or inhuman or degrading treatment	Human Rights Act 1998, Articles 2 & 3
Overriding public interest	Common Law
In accordance with a court order	The Court Order itself

APPENDIX 2

Reporting a PREVENT concern

Action to take if you suspect an individual is being radicalised or self-radicalised into extremist activities



Prevent Lead: Katie Dorrian, Executive Safeguarding Lead
Katedorrian@aspris.com

APPENDIX 3

Definitions of Terms

Terrorism	Actions of individuals or groups who seek to bring about social or political change through actions intended to cause serious harm, disruption or raise attention through fear and/or damage to property to cause loss of life.
Radicalisation	The process of grooming an individual to support, encourage or condone violence to advance terrorist ideology.
Extremism	Vocal or active opposition to fundamental values including democracy, the rule of the law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different beliefs and faiths. We also include our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.
CONTEST Strategy	Sits under the home office and is a national strategy or long-term plan of action designed to reduce the risk of terrorism, by stopping people becoming terrorists, preventing terrorist attacks, strengthening the UK's resilience to terrorism and facilitating emergency preparedness procedures in the event of attack.
Prevent Strategy	Challenging terrorist ideologies, supporting those who are vulnerable to these ideologies and working with institutions where radicalisation may occur (including the internet and social media).
Vulnerability	In the context of <i>Prevent</i> is a person who is susceptible to extremists' messages and is at risk of being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism at a point in time.
CHANNEL	<p>Multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. CHANNEL uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as education and health sectors, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services, the police and the local community to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism; (b) Assess the nature and extent of that risk; and (c) Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individual concerned. <p>CHANNEL is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert away from the risk they face before illegality occurs</p>