

Safeguarding - Vulnerable to Radicalisation

PREVENT & CHANNEL Policy and Guidance

v1

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Introduction

The Government's policy objective is to prevent and reduce the risk of significant harm to vulnerable adults from abuse or other types of exploitation, whilst supporting individuals in maintaining control over their lives and in making informed choices without coercion.

The Government believes that safeguarding is everybody's business with communities playing a part in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. Measures need to be in place locally to protect those least able to protect themselves. With that in mind the Prevent objective was set up with the assumption that the majority of Adults are capable of protecting themselves and that is only a proportion are vulnerable and potentially in need of proactive intervention

The UK faces a range of terrorist threats; the most serious is from Al Qa'ida, its affiliates and like-minded organisations.

All the terrorist groups who pose a threat to us seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. But the percentage of people who are prepared to support violent extremism in the country is very small. It is significantly greater amongst young people.

We now have more information about factors which encourage people to support terrorism and then engage in terrorist-related activity. It is important to understand these factors if we are to prevent radicalisation and minimise the risk it poses to our national security.

We judge that radicalisation is driven by an ideology which sanctions the use of violence; by propagandists for that ideology here and overseas; and by personal vulnerabilities and specific local factors which, for a range of reasons, make that ideology seem attractive and compelling.

There is evidence to indicate that support for terrorism is associated with rejection of a cohesive, integrated, multi-faith society and of parliamentary democracy.

Terrorist groups can take up and exploit ideas which have been developed and sometimes popularised by extremist organisations which operate legally in this country.

CONTEST

'CONTEST' is the overall UK strategy for Countering Terrorism. The aim of 'CONTEST' is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. The four strands are:

- Protect - strengthening our borders, infrastructure, buildings and public spaces.
- Prepare - where an attack cannot be stopped, to reduce its impact.
- Pursue - to disrupt or stop terrorist attacks.
- Prevent - to stop people from becoming terrorists (often referred to as being radicalised) or supporting terrorism. The Department of Health and the Home Office have developed guidance for healthcare organisations, to enable them to implement Prevent locally, called "Building Partnerships, staying Safe".

Healthcare professionals may meet and treat people who are vulnerable to radicalisation. People with mental health or learning difficulties may be more easily drawn into terrorism. It is known that people connected to the health sector have taken part in terrorist acts.

The key challenge for the health sector is to ensure that, where there are signs that someone has been or is being drawn into terrorism, that healthcare workers are aware of the support available and are confident in referring the person for further support.

Preventing someone from becoming a terrorist or supporting terrorism is no different from safeguarding vulnerable individuals from other forms of exploitation. This policy sits alongside the Company's Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy.

The Prevent strategy places an onus upon the health sector to support the delivery of the Prevent initiatives, in order to prevent individuals being radicalised Prevent has 3 national objectives:

- Objective 1: respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
- Objective 2: prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
- Objective 3: work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

The Health Sector contribution to Prevent is primarily on Objective 2 and 3. Prevent training undertaken in line with Objective 2 and 3 will be known as WRAP training.

The overall principle of health is to improve the health and wellbeing through the delivery of healthcare services while safeguarding those individuals who are vulnerable to any form of exploitation. Prevent is also about protecting individuals.

Prevent aims to protect those who are vulnerable to exploitation from those who seek to get people to support or commit acts of violence.

The Role of the Healthcare Professional

Healthcare staff are well placed to recognise individuals, whether patients or staff, who may be vulnerable and therefore more susceptible to radicalisation by violent extremists or terrorist, it is fundamental to our 'duty of care' and falls within our safeguarding responsibilities.

Every member of staff has a role to play in protecting and supporting vulnerable individuals who pass through our care.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, makes it a statutory requirement for Health Specified Authorities as listed in Schedule 6 of the Act, are as follows:

- NHS Trusts
- NHS Foundation Trusts

NHS England has incorporated Prevent into the safeguarding arrangements, so that Prevent awareness and other relevant training is delivered to all staff who provide services to NHS patients.

Since Southern Ultrasound supplies services to the NHS, directly interacting with NHS patients, our staff and contractors have a similar role to play as NHS staff.

Purpose of this policy

This policy describes how the Company will implement the Prevent agenda. The Prevent agenda will ensure that:

- Staff know how to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals, whether service users or staff, who they feel may be at risk of being radicalised by extremists;
- Appropriate systems are in place with the Company for staff to raise concerns if they think this form of exploitation is taking place;
- The Company promotes and operates a safe environment where extremists are unable to operate.
- It must be proportionate and focused. It must not imply a need to change the attitudes of most people in this country towards terrorism. It must not seem to pass judgement on a faith or to suggest only a particular kind of faith is appropriate or acceptable

Definitions

These definitions are taken from the HM Government Prevent Strategy 2011.

Radicalisation - is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate on terrorist activity.

Extremism - is 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of the armed forces.

Channel - A multi-disciplinary panel normally hosted by the Council, its role is to support people at risk of radicalisation

Contest - HM Governments Strategy for Terrorism

Extremist Rational - The use of persuasive rational contained within a storyline or narrative that has the potential to influence views

Prevent - HM Government Strategy for Preventing Radicalisation

Radicalisers - Is someone or a group who attempts to radicalise others by extremist views in order to become involved in terrorist-related activity

Duties

Director

Has overall responsibility for ensuring the company has robust, complete and up to date procedures in place to govern and guide activities so that legal, and national requirements are met.

To ensure that processes, training and systems are in place through the organisation contributing to the Adult Safeguarding

To review, endorse and approve Prevent policy and any related materials in line with the Company policy for the development, approval, implementation and management of all policy documents.

Safeguarding Lead / Prevent Lead

(Southern Ultrasound has appointed a single Director – Kevin Rendell – to all Safeguarding Roles. As such he also takes on the role of Prevent Lead).

Ensure that policies and procedures are in place to effectively safeguard vulnerable adults.

Report to the Board on all matters pertaining to Prevent / Safeguarding Adults

To offer expert knowledge and advice to staff on all aspects of Prevent, or be able to point them to locations for such expert advice.

To promote good practice and effective communication within the Company, and between the Company and other agencies, on all matters relating to the Prevent, in conjunction with relevant colleagues, ensure that issues relating to information-sharing and confidentiality are addressed;

To lead on delivery of Prevent Training

The process of exploitation

There is no single profile or indicator of a person who is likely to become involved in terrorist-related activity, nor is there a single sign when a person might move to adopt violence in support of violent extremism, here are some indicators:

- Someone suffering from mental health
- Lack of identity and belonging in their community
- Involvement with groups offending or organised crime
- Significant tension within the person's family / significant others
- Someone who has been alienated from their own culture
- Unemployment / underemployment
- Drug abuse

The factors surrounding exploitation are many and they are unique to each person. The increasing body of information indicates that factors thought to relate to personal experience of vulnerable individuals affect the way in which they relate to their external environment.

In this sense, vulnerable individuals may be exploited in many ways by radicalisers who target the vagaries of their vulnerabilities. Contact with the radicalisers is also variable and can take a direct form, i.e. face to face, or can happen indirectly through the internet, social networking or the media, more commonly this will occur through a combination of the above.

Contact with radicalisers

It is generally more common for vulnerable individuals to become involved in terrorist-related activity through the influence of others. Initially contact may be via peers, siblings, other family members or acquaintances, with the process of radicalisation often being a social one. Such social interaction takes place in a range of unsupervised environments such as gyms or cafés, in private homes and via the internet.

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, and is a swift and effective mechanism for disseminating propaganda material.

Healthcare organisations 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.

Use of extremist rational (often referred to as 'narrative')

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 in the primary objective of those who seek to radicalise vulnerable individuals.

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

Adolescents / vulnerable adults who are exploring issues of identity can feel both distain from their parents / family and cultural and religious heritage, and uncomfortable with their place in society around them.

Radicalisers can exploit this providing a sense of purpose or feeling 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 traditional certainties of the family life.

Personal Circumstances

The experience of migration, local tensions or events affecting families in countries of origin may contribute to alienation from the 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 occasions 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 part in the early introduction of vulnerable individuals into acceptance of a radical view And extremist ideology:

- A misconception and / or rejection of UK policy both foreign and domestic
- A distrust of western media reporting
- Perception that UK government policy is discriminatory (e.g. counterterrorist legislation).

Raising Concerns

Should any staff member have a concern relating to an individual's behaviour which indicates that they may be being drawn into terrorist-related activity, they will need to take into consideration how reliable or significant these indicators are.

Indicators

Indicators may include:

- Patients/staff accessing terrorist-related material online, including through social network sites.
- Parents/family reports of changes in behaviour, friendships or actions and requests for assistance.
- Partner healthcare organisations', local authority services' and police reports of issues affecting patients in other healthcare organisations.
- Patients/staff voicing opinions drawn from terrorist-related ideologies.
- Use of extremist or hate terms to exclude others or incite violence.

It may be that patient or staff member is facing multiple challenges in their life, of which exposure to terrorist-related influences is just one. Staff will need to use their judgement in determining the significance of any changes in behaviour where sufficient concerns are present.

Concerns that an individual may be vulnerable to radicalisation, does not mean that you think the person is a terrorist, it means that you are concerned they are prone to being exploited by others, and so the concern is a safeguarding concern.

If a member of staff feels that they have a concern that someone is being radicalised, either a patient or a member of staff then they should discuss their concerns with their manager and or the Company Safeguarding Lead by emailing kevin@beehive-solutions.co.uk

If anyone has immediate concerns that an individual is presenting an immediate terrorist risk to themselves, others or property, then they should contact the National Counter-Terrorism Hotline on 0800 789321, or the police on 101.

Reporting Prevent Concerns

Should any member of staff have concerns relating to an individual's behaviour which indicates that they may be being drawn into terrorist-related activity, they will need to take into consideration how reliable or significant the indicators are. All staff must raise their concerns and seek advice on how to address them.

Staff can seek advice through the Company's Safeguarding Lead.

Where staff believe that concerns may need to be escalated, they should seek advice from the Company's Safeguarding Lead, who will assist in determining whether the matter needs to be referred on.

If the Safeguarding Lead determine that a safeguarding referral needs to be made, it will be done in accordance with local inter-agency safeguarding procedures / Prevent Protocols.

The Safeguarding Lead will ensure that there is appropriate feedback to the member of staff raising the concern.

Managing Concerns in Relation to Employees

Although there are relatively few instances of healthcare staff radicalising others or being drawn into extremist acts, it is still a risk that the Company needs to be aware of and have processes within to manage any concerns.

Where any Company employee expresses views, bring material into the organisation, uses or directs patients to extremist websites or acts in other ways to promote terrorism, the Company will act in a similar fashion to that laid out above for non-staff members.

What is channel?

Channel is a supportive multi-agency process, designed to safeguard those individuals who may be vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism. It is a key part of Prevent – the Government’s strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

It is not the purpose of Channel to provide an alternative to the criminal justice system for those who have been engaged in illegal activity. Channel is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they may face before illegality relating to terrorism occurs. Therefore, in line with other safeguarding processes, being referred to Channel will not lead to an individual receiving a criminal record as a consequence of the referral, nor as a result of any support they may receive through Channel.

Channel works by identifying individuals who may be at risk, assessing the nature and extent of the risk, and where necessary, providing an appropriate support package tailored to their needs. A multi-agency panel, chaired by the local authority, decides on the most appropriate action to support an individual after considering their circumstances.

It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they may face at an early opportunity. Partners already work with individuals vulnerable to being drawn into criminal activity such as drugs, knife or gang crime. In a similar way the process of radicalisation allows us to intervene to prevent individuals being drawn into terrorist related activity.

Partnership involvement ensures that those at risk have access to a wide range of support ranging from mainstream services such as health and education through to specialist mentoring or faith guidance and wider diversionary activities such as sporting activities.

Each support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the multiagency panel.

What happens with the referral? Each referral is screened for suitability. If the referral is not deemed appropriate for Channel it will exit the process or be referred to those services which are more appropriate to the vulnerable individual’s needs. Appropriate referrals will go through a preliminary assessment coordinated by the Channel Coordinator and key statutory partners as appropriate. Partners will be asked to check and report back to the Channel coordinator if the vulnerable individual is known to their service and a case profile will be created to assist decision making at the Channel multi-agency panel. The multi-agency panel will convene and be chaired by the local authority, where the individual’s needs will be identified and a support plan will be put in place to address these needs.

Channel assesses vulnerability using a consistently applied vulnerability assessment framework built around three dimensions:

- Intent to cause harm;
- Engagement with a group, cause or ideology;
- Capability to cause harm

The dimensions are considered separately as experience has shown that it is possible to be engaged without intending to cause harm and that it is possible to intend to cause harm without being particularly engaged. Experience has also shown that it is possible to desist (stop intending to cause harm) without fully disengaging (remaining sympathetic to the cause); though losing sympathy with the cause (disengaging) will invariably result in desistance (loss of intent).

The three dimensions are assessed by considering 22 factors that can contribute to vulnerability (13 associated with engagement, 6 that relate to intent and 3 for capability). These factors taken together form a rounded view of the vulnerability of an individual that will inform decisions on whether an individual needs support and what kind of support package may be appropriate. These factors can also be added to and are not considered an exhaustive list. By undertaking regular vulnerability assessments, the progress that is being made in supporting an individual can be tracked through changes in the assessment.

Each case is monitored regularly at an interval of no more than 6 weeks. In addition, there will be a 6 monthly and 12 monthly review meeting for each case, once the referral has exited the process.

Information Sharing

Information sharing must be assessed on a case-by-case basis and is governed by legislation. To ensure the rights of individuals are fully protected, it is important that information sharing agreements are in place at a local level. When considering sharing personal information, the specified authority should take account of the following:

- Necessity and proportionality: personal information should only be shared where it is strictly necessary to the intended outcome and proportionate to it. Key to determining the necessity and proportionality of sharing information will be the professional judgement of the risks to an individual or the public;
- Power to share: the sharing of data by public sector bodies requires the existence of a power to do so, in addition to satisfying the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998; Data Protection Act and the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality: in engaging with non-public bodies, the specified authority should ensure that they are aware of their own responsibilities under the Data Protection Act and any confidentiality obligations that exist.

There may be some circumstances where specified authorities, in the course of Prevent related work, identify someone who may already be engaged in illegal terrorist-related activity. People suspected of being involved in such activity must be referred to the police. For guidance on information sharing speak with your manager in the first instance.

List of legal grounds 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	Section 29, Data Protection Act
To protect vital interests of the data subject; serious harm or matter of life or death	Schedule 2 & 3 of Data Protection Act
For the administration of justice (usually bringing perpetrators to justice)	Schedule 2 & 3 of Data Protection Act
For the exercise of function conferred on any person by or under any enactment (police/social services)	Schedule 2 & 3 of Data Protection Act
In accordance with a court order	
Overriding public interest	Common Law
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	Schedule 2 & 3 of Data Protection Act
Right to Life Right to be free from torture or inhuman degrading treatment	Human Rights Act, Articles 2 & 3

Consent

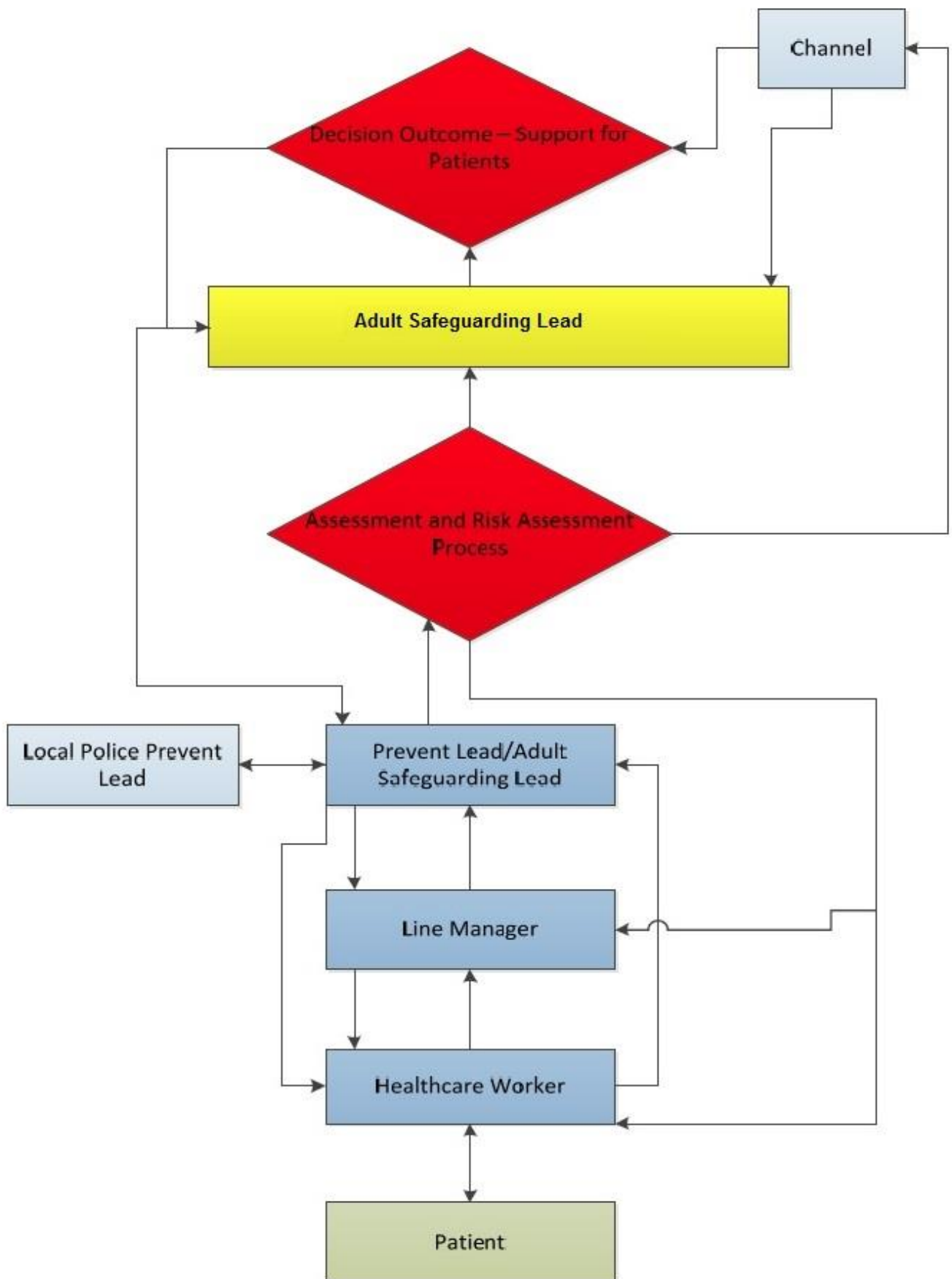
Will the vulnerable person be informed that they have been referred for Channel intervention?

In the normal course of events appropriate consent will be obtained from the individual involved. The Code of Practice on Confidentiality (2003) will be applied to all referrals however in exceptional circumstances only, the person may not be informed. There are legal gateways for sharing this information under prevention of crime in the Data Protection Act. Even if the individual is not told at this early stage if they are deemed genuinely vulnerable to radicalisation and in need of a supportive intervention under the Channel process, they must be told prior to receiving an intervention. The process for them will be carefully managed in discussion with the referring agency.

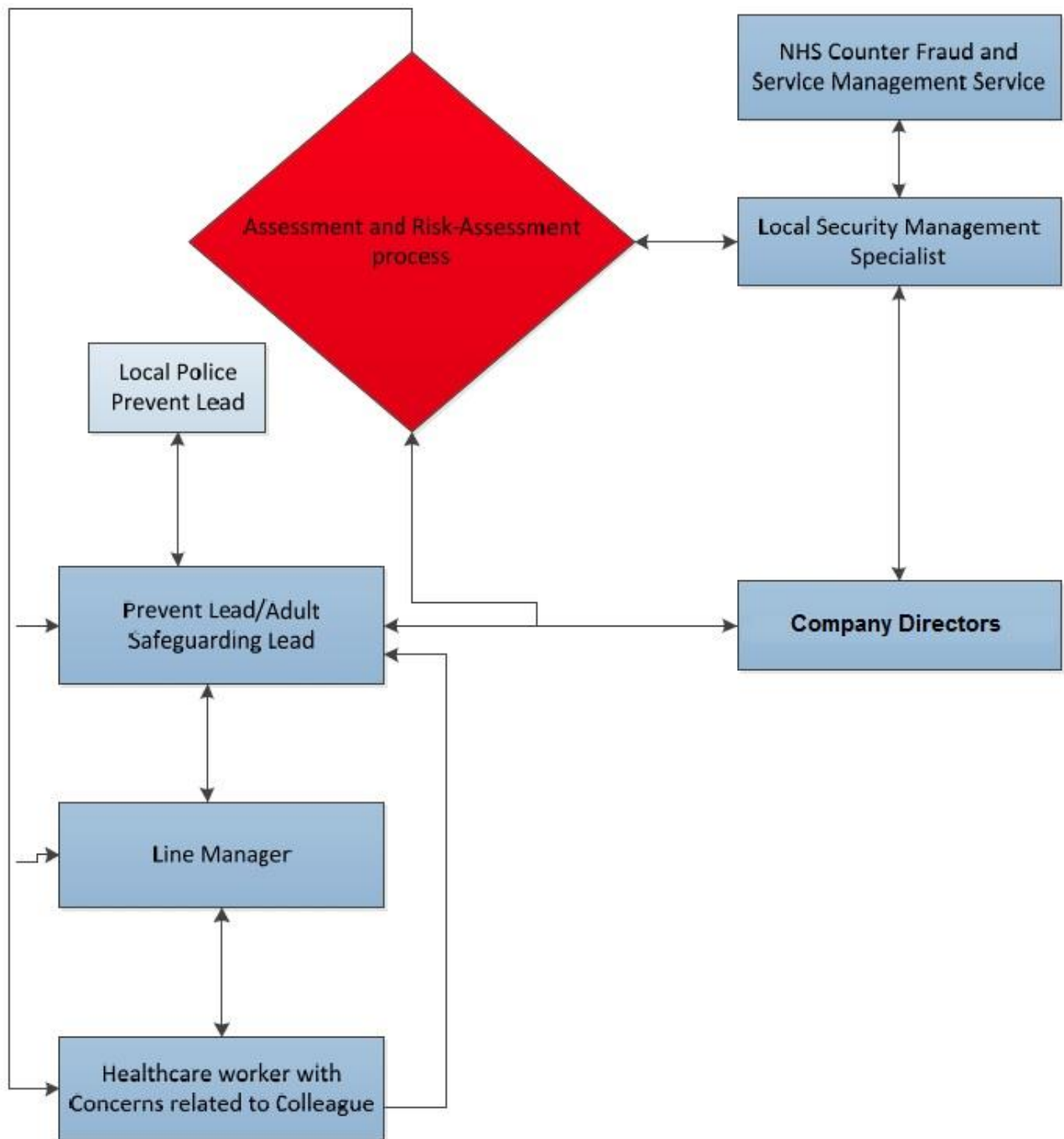
Escalating your concern

If you believe that someone is being radicalised or is vulnerable to terrorism it is recommended that you follow the flow charts below.

Raising Prevent Concerns Patient Flow Chart



Raising Prevent Concerns Staff Flow Chart



Southern Ultrasound will have no direct involvement in Channel, unless approached by the panel for information of any kind. Such requests will be directed to a Company Director or Governance Lead, and if any other staff member is approached they should refer the enquirer to one of the above

However, any agency or member of the public can make a referral to Channel.

Referrals should be made without delay, where there are concerns about significant harm or directly to the Police on 999 if there is an imminent risk of harm

A referral form, which is also known as person vulnerable to radicalisation (VTR), should be requested from the Channel Panel Coordinator.

Once completed, this should be returned securely. Secure emails include the company's @nhs.net email accounts. If you do not have a secure email you can set the security on the referral with a password and ring the local Police Prevent Team to let them know the referral has been sent and the password to open it.

Training

Staff within the Trust are required to attend relevant level of Prevent training (Wrap) in accordance with statutory Duty/NHS England – Prevent Training and Competencies Framework 2015.

Directors and Managers are responsible for ensuring that staff access training in line with Statutory training requirements.

WRAP (Workshop to Raise the Awareness of Prevent) is a DVD-led interactive workshop. It is aimed at frontline staff as well as the community

The National Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters (NCTPHQ), in conjunction with the College of Policing, have developed a general awareness e-learning package for Channel.

The package includes:

- information on how Channel links to the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) through the Prevent strategy
- guidance on how to identify people who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism
- how to refer them into the Channel process.

Associated Documents

- Southern Ultrasound Policy - Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults
- Southern Ultrasound Policy - Employee Disciplinary & Dismissal Policy
- Southern Ultrasound Policy – Reporting Professional Concerns

Policy Standards

Monitoring processes

The Board of Directors monitor Prevent issues, via reports from the Safeguarding Lead, presented at least annually to the Board Meeting.

Monitoring of this policy, together with its implementation, shall be performed by the Safeguarding Lead.

Distribution and Awareness Plan

All staff are made aware of the policy as part of their induction training. If there are any significant changes to the policies that affect the way in which staff initiate or respond, these are communicated to them via team briefs and staff meetings.

A copy of the policy is available to all staff via the Policy sub-folder of the Company's on-line Governance Framework folder, and can be accessed 24/7 from any location with Web Access. A hard copy version is retained at all sites of operation.

Approval & Review

This policy has been approved by the undersigned and will be reviewed annually and any time there is a change in the Law, Guidance or Best Practice Recommendations.

Policy Created: 20/08/18 Reviewed Annually. Last Review: N/A

Kevin Rendell:



Director & Safeguarding Lead

Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment has been performed on this policy and procedure. The EIA demonstrates the policy is robust; there is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact. All opportunities to promote equality have been taken.

		Yes/No	Comments
1.	Does the policy/guidance affect one group less or more favourably than another on the basis of:		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Race	No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic origins (inc. gypsies and travellers)	No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Nationality	No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Culture	No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief	No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation including lesbian, gay and bisexual people	No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability - learning disabilities, physical disability, sensory impairment and mental health problems	No	
2.	Is there any evidence that some groups are affected differently?	No	
3.	If you have identified potential discrimination, are any exceptions valid, legal and/or justifiable?	NA	
4.	Is the impact of the policy/guidance likely to be negative?	NA	
5.	If so can the impact be avoided?	NA	
6.	What alternatives are there to achieving the policy/guidance without the impact?	NA	
7.	Can we reduce the impact by taking different action?	NA	