

Prevent Duty – what does this mean for early years providers?

From 1 July 2015 all schools, registered early years childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty. It also applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

The DfE have produce the following guidance for schools and childcare providers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

This states that schools and childcare providers need to be able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when identified(pg 5).

We can build pupils resilience by promoting fundamental British Values and enabling them to challenge extremist views The Prevent duty suggests this is entirely consistent with schools and childcare providers existing responsibilities and should not be burdensome.

For early years providers the statutory framework for the EYFS sets standards for learning and development and care of children 0-5, thereby assisting their personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world. The Foundation Years Web site has produced guidance on promoting fundamental British Values which link to the EYFS requirements of Learning and Development, and therefore we would recommend everyone makes themselves familiar with this clarification and the examples of good practice outlined.

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/fundamental-british-values-in-the-early-years>

We should have clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation and these may be set out in existing safeguarding policies, but it is not necessary for schools and childcare settings to have distinct policies on implementing the Prevent duty. School staff and childcare providers to need to understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel Programme. The Channel Programme is a process for safeguarding everyone, by assessing the vulnerability of people being drawn into terrorism. To access the first stage of the process, childcare practitioners who have concerns will contact and make a referral to the police who have a team/practitioner that will complete an assessment. They are also recommended to contact Social Care through the Children and Families Help Desk and the police on 101. A flow chart/guidance is being produced which will be available on the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Boards web site shortly.

There is on-line free training available on The Channel Programme which takes approx 25 minutes to complete. Completion of this training could be used to demonstrate how providers are familiarising themselves with the Prevent Duty and their responsibilities in relation to it.

We would recommend as a minimum that the Designated Safeguarding Lead completes the training to provide support and advice to other staff members on the protection of children.

http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html

We recommend that in safeguarding policies reference is made to promoting fundamental British Values as part of the safeguarding duty to protection children from radicalisation and extremist behaviour. The inclusion of the GSCB flow chart would also indicate that providers know how to share their concerns if they feel young children may be vulnerable to radicalisation whether in the family or outside.