

## **Gloucestershire GSCP's guidance to the Prevent Referral Pathway**

### **What is Prevent?**

Prevent is the Government's strategy to stop people becoming involved in violent extremism or supporting terrorism. Prevent works within the non-criminal space, using early engagement to encourage and support individuals to challenge ideologies and behaviours.

### **What is Channel?**

Channel is an early intervention multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremism or terrorist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing safeguarding partnerships aimed at protecting vulnerable people.

### **Who does Channel work with?**

Channel is designed to work with people of any age who are at risk of being exploited by extremist or terrorist ideologies.

### **How does Channel work?**

The Channel Panel is chaired by the local authority and brings together a range of multi-agency partners to collectively assess the risk and decide whether a support package is necessary. The partnership approach ensures that those with specific knowledge and expertise around the vulnerabilities of those at risk. In Gloucestershire, we have core channel panel members and we invite bespoke professionals known to or working with the individual in question.

### **How will the person be involved in this process?**

A person will always be informed first if it is felt they would benefit from Channel support. The process is voluntary and their consent would be needed before taking part in the process. The process of seeking **consent** is carefully managed by the Channel Panel and a decision is made at Stage One about who should seek consent and how this will be achieved.

### **Who can make a referral?**

Anyone can make a referral – Please see the attached referral pathway.

## **What happens with the referral?**

Every agency should have a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) and concerns should be discussed with them in the first instance. Prevent officers are available for advice. If it is agreed a referral is required, this will first be screened by The Prevent officers in Special Branch who will make a decision as to whether this will be considered by the Channel Panel.

## **Raising a Concern**

If you believe that someone vulnerable is being exploited or radicalised, please use the established safeguarding or duty of care procedures within your organisation to escalate the concerns to the appropriate leads. Please follow the attached process map to make a referral for a person who is under the age of 18.

## **For advice:**

[Specialbranch@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Specialbranch@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk)

[childrenshelpdesk@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrenshelpdesk@gloucestershire.gov.uk)