

University of Bolton Prevent Policy

1. Introduction, purpose and scope

This purpose of this document is to demonstrate the University's clear understanding of its Prevent related responsibilities and set out its good practice within the Institution.

The University is required under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 ('Act') to 'have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism' and adhere to any guidance issued under section 29 of the Act and within the Prevent Duty Guidance for Specified Authorities in England and Wales 2015, revised and updated in April 2021.

The Government definition of Extremism until the 14 March 2024 was 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. It included in its definition of extremism calls for death of members of armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

From the 14 March 2024 the government definition of extremism changed to: Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

1. negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
2. undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
3. intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).

The Channel process forms a key part of the Government's Prevent strategy as a multi-agency approach to identify and provide early stage support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism - the University, as a specified Partner to the Channel programme, is required to cooperate with the Local Authority to secure effective local cooperation and delivery of Channel in all areas and to build on the good practice already operating in many areas.

The University implemented its statutory requirements in 2016 in a proportionate and risk-based way to ensure it has properly thought through procedures and policies in place which can be appropriately followed and applied. Compliance was achieved in consultation with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Regional Prevent Coordinator now the Department of Education DfE Regional Prevent Coordinator. The University continues to work closely with the Department of Education and other external safeguarding partners to ensure compliance with the duty.

This Prevent Policy applies to all staff and students of the University.

2. Principles

2.1 Approach

2.1.1 The University takes seriously its responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and the wider community and as part of this, it seeks to do all that it can to prevent any member of the University community from being drawn into radicalisation and terrorism. It also recognises that it has a statutory responsibility to protect academic freedom and freedom of speech. Whilst the University has a duty to have due regard to

all members of its community, including its staff and students its primary focus is on its student community who may be the most susceptible/vulnerable to being drawn into radicalisation and terrorism.

2.1.2 The University developed a Prevent action plan to implement the new Prevent Duty 'in a proportionate and risk-based manner' based on the findings of its risk assessment of the institution and its institutional policies regarding the campus and student welfare, which assessed where and how its students might be at risk of being drawn into radicalisation and terrorism. The risk assessment encompassed violent and non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

In 2023 the University took the strategic decision to embed the Prevent Risk Assessment and Action Plan within a new Safeguarding and Prevent Risk Assessment and Action Plan that was approved by the Board of Governors in November 2023.

2.1.3 The University recognises that there is no single way of identifying who is likely to be susceptible or vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, factors that may have a bearing on someone being susceptible or vulnerable may include (non-exhaustive list):

- being disabled or needing care, support or protection because of age or disabilities
- peer pressure and influence from other people or via the internet
- bullying
- crime against them or their involvement in crime
- antisocial behaviour
- family tensions
- race/hate crime
- lack of self-esteem or identity
- personal or political grievance.

2.2. Leadership

2.2.1 The University's approach is supported by the Governing Body, the Vice Chancellor and the Executive Senior Management. This policy has been approved by the Governing Body and thereafter an annual Safeguarding and Prevent assurance report will be presented to the Governing Body.

2.2.2 The Registrar is identified as the Executive Prevent Lead responsible for ensuring that the University complies appropriately with the new Prevent Duty, in liaison with the Regional Prevent Co-ordinator and other key stakeholders within and beyond the University. The Director of Facilities is identified as the Operational Prevent Lead. The Head of Student Services is one of two Safeguarding Officers and the Prevent Coordinator.

2.3 Risk Assessment and Action Plan

The University's Safeguarding and Prevent risk assessment and action plan will be monitored and reported on annually to the Governing Body. Where any significant risk is identified the University will consider what action might mitigate the impact/likelihood of that risk evolving and where necessary include it in its Safeguarding and Prevent action plan.

2.4 External Speakers

2.4.1 The University's Code of Practice relating to Freedom of Speech and Meetings on University Premises: reflects the new Prevent Duty; it sets out how the University will manage events on campus and use all its premises whilst ensuring that it meets the different legal requirements on it, not least the duties under the Human Rights Act (Article 10), the Education (No. 2) Act 1986, the Education Reform Act 1988 and the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 to secure freedom of speech and academic freedom within

Safeguarding, Prevent and British Values are key themes discussed with apprentices at their quarterly review meetings, apprentices can also discuss such topics with their employers or Work Based Trainers.

In addition, apprentices will be provided with information on Safeguarding, Prevent, Bullying, Harassment, Victimisation and Sexual Misconduct at their induction.

The Acting Head of Apprenticeships has responsibility for informing Employers of safeguarding arrangements at the University of Bolton. The University will work with Employers accepting University students as apprentices in relation to training and to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are in place.

2.6. Welfare and Pastoral Care/Chaplaincy Support

2.6 1 Pastoral care is available to the University's students in a variety of ways with specialist support being available through Student Services including the Life Lounge, Student Mental Health and Wellbeing services. All students have a Personal Academic Tutor and have access to University members of staff that provide pastoral support. Apprenticeship students also have access to a Work Based Trainer who delivers learning support to academic staff, apprentices and their employers. The Students Union provides welfare support to all students.

2.6 2 The University will ensure that, for all students, provision is made for those of any faith (or those without faith) to access appropriate facilities for pastoral care and for religious purposes There are clear and widely available policies for the management and use of the prayer rooms and other faith-related facilities (which are overseen by the Co-ordinating Chaplain of the Multi Faith Chaplaincy

acknowledges the importance of the Channel programme and the opportunities for informal and formal sharing of information with relevant authorities. Information sharing will only take place with external authorities when this is consistent with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

2.10 Communications

The University will not permit material supporting terrorism to be displayed within University premises and will remove any such material if it is found. Likewise, it will seek to ensure that the University's printed and electronic communications (including its website) do not contain or support terrorist material or material likely to encourage terrorism and will investigate immediately if any such instances are raised.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

All members of staff should be aware of the University's responsibilities under the Prevent Duty and of the measures set out above to comply with it. Members of the University community who are concerned about a student who might be at risk of being drawn into radicalisation and terrorism should report this to their line manager or to one of the two Safeguarding Officers, more information on reporting a concern is available in the University Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.

4. Related Policies and Procedures

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Name of Developer/Reviewer	Specialist Services and Safety Manager (2016) Contracts and Compliance Officer (2016) Head of Student Services (2024)
Procedure Owner	VCs Office
Person Responsible for Implementation	Registrar
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Document History	<p>Reviewed in March 2024 by the Head of Student Services, Safeguarding Officer and Prevent Coordinator and the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Manager, Safeguarding Officer and Deputy Prevent Coordinator. Technical changes made to update the Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> removing 'New' in relation to the Prevent Duty updating the definition of extremism reference to other legislation including the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 Inclusion of additional information regarding student training and apprenticeships. <p>Consultation with members of the Safeguarding and Prevent Working Group for approval prior to publication of this version, version 2.</p>