

Nottingham Forest Community Trust

PREVENT DUTY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

CHLOE BINGHAM – SAFEGUARDING & RISK MANAGER

Purpose

To align NFCT's programmes and activities with the UK Government's **Prevent Duty** as part of the Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST), ensuring the protection of individuals from radicalisation and developing community resilience. This strategy integrates safeguarding measures into all programmes delivered by NFCT, adhering to the Trust's values of being **accessible, committed, and progressive**.

Aim

To implement a robust framework that identifies and mitigates the risks of radicalisation while supporting individuals to access positive, inclusive opportunities across NFCT programmes.

Objective

1. Embed Prevent Duty principles across all NFCT programmes.
2. Equip staff, volunteers, and participants with the knowledge and resources to recognise and address signs of radicalisation.
3. Ensure training and development plans are in place and monitored to maintain safeguarding standards.
4. Strengthen reporting and monitoring systems, aligning with safeguarding policies.

Scope

This strategy applies to all staff, volunteers, programme participants, and external partners engaged with NFCT activities. The programmes NFCT deliver include:

- PL Kicks
- Forest Futures
- Healthy Horizons
- Tricky to Talk
- Memory Club
- PL Primary Stars
- BTEC
- Walking Football
- Neuro Walking Football
- Welcome Through Football
- Powerchair Football
- Official Soccer Schools
- HAF (Holiday Activities and Food Programme)
- PL Inspires
- Think Big
- Forest Forces

Strategic Development Plan

Alignment with NFCT Strategic Values

- **Accessible:** All programmes will integrate Prevent principles in a way that is inclusive and culturally sensitive.
- **Committed:** NFCT will ensure that all staff and volunteers are trained to recognise and respond to radicalisation risks.
- **Progressive:** NFCT will use innovative tools (e.g., MyConcern, iREPORTit reporting) and data-driven evaluations to monitor and enhance Prevent measures.

Alignment to NFCT's Safeguarding Pillars

1. People and Training

- Use a training matrix to track Prevent training completion for all staff and volunteers.
- Schedule refresher courses annually.
- Provide specialist training for staff involved in high-risk programmes (e.g., PL Kicks, Forest Futures, Welcome Through Football).

2. Policies and Procedures

- Update safeguarding policies to include specific Prevent-related guidance.
- Reference Prevent as part of the NFCT Performance Group's regular reviews of policy reviews and amendments.

3. Processes and Systems

- Use MyConcern for internal recording and escalating Prevent concerns.
- Use iREPORTit external escalation and reporting.
- Ensure all staff understand how to access and use these systems.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Incorporate Prevent measures into NFCT's Quality Assurance framework.
- Conduct bi-annual reviews to assess the effectiveness of Prevent implementation.

NFCT's Commitment to PREVENT

At Nottingham Forest Community Trust (NFCT), we are profoundly committed to supporting the government's PREVENT strategy, which is one of the key elements of the UK's Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST).

PREVENT aims to safeguard individuals from being drawn into terrorism and to promote safer, more resilient communities.

We recognise our responsibility to ensure that all areas of our delivery and programmes are aligned with the principles of PREVENT. This commitment extends across our staff, volunteers, participants, and the wider community we serve.

Understanding CONTEST

CONTEST is the UK government's overarching counter-terrorism strategy. It is an acronym that stands for:

- **C**ountering the radicalisation of individuals
- **O**rganising resources to detect, disrupt, and investigate terrorism
- **N**etworking intelligence agencies and local services
- **T**hwarting terrorism through both domestic and international efforts
- **E**ngagement with partners globally and locally
- **S**upporting victims and communities
- **T**argeting and disrupting terrorist actions

The CONTEST strategy is the UK government's counterterrorism strategy. It aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests from terrorism, both at home and abroad. It was first introduced in 2003 and is periodically updated. The strategy consists of four key elements, known as the 4Ps:

1. **Pursue:**
 - To stop terrorist attacks by disrupting and preventing terrorism-related activities.
 - This includes intelligence gathering, police engagement, and counter-terrorism operations.
2. **Prevent:**
 - To prevent individuals from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
 - This involves initiatives aimed at tackling radicalisation, providing support to vulnerable individuals, and promoting community resilience.
3. **Protect:**
 - To strengthen the UK's critical infrastructure and public spaces to make them less vulnerable to terrorist attacks.
 - This includes improving security measures in transport, buildings, and key sectors.
4. **Prepare:**
 - To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack if one occurs by improving emergency response and recovery plans.
 - This ensures that authorities can respond effectively and minimise harm to the public.

These four pillars work together to address the threat of terrorism in a comprehensive way, focusing on prevention, protection, and rapid response.

Understanding PREVENT

PREVENT is part of the UK government's counter-terrorism strategy, designed to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

It is one of the four pillars of the **CONTEST** strategy. The **PREVENT** strategy aims to tackle the factors that contribute to radicalisation and support individuals at risk of being drawn into extremist activity.

Embedding PREVENT Across NFCT

1. Training and Awareness

- All NFCT staff are required to complete PREVENT training to ensure they are equipped to recognise vulnerabilities to radicalisation and know how to act on concerns.
- We encourage staff to utilise tools such as the **ProtectUK app** for the latest counter-terrorism advice, resources, and updates.

2. Reporting Mechanisms

- **Internal Reporting:** Any safeguarding or PREVENT-related concerns must be reported via our **My Concern platform**. These secure tools allow for a streamlined and confidential process for escalating concerns to the Safeguarding Team.
- **External Reporting:** If a concern requires escalation beyond NFCT, designated staff will liaise with the relevant authorities in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, following the local PREVENT procedures and guidelines.

3. Promoting a Safe Environment

- PREVENT is integrated into our safeguarding policies, ensuring alignment with our wider commitment to participant safety and well-being.
- By embedding PREVENT principles into our programmes, we aim to encourage critical thinking, resilience, and inclusivity among participants, challenging extremist narratives effectively.

Our Commitment in Practice

NFCT will:

- Regularly review and update our safeguarding policies to reflect changes in national PREVENT strategies.
- Promote awareness of PREVENT responsibilities among all staff, volunteers, and delivery partners.
- Engage with local authorities, schools, and community groups to strengthen our collective ability to mitigate risks.

By taking these steps, NFCT reinforces its dedication to safeguarding our communities from terrorism and extremist threats while ensuring our programmes remain inclusive, supportive, and aligned with national safeguarding priorities

Recognising Signs, Indicators and Patterns of potential radicalisation:

Recognising signs and indicators of radicalisation requires careful consideration of patterns of behaviour, the context of those behaviours, and an understanding of individual circumstances.

Most Obvious Signs of Radicalisation:

- **Expression of Extreme Ideologies:** Openly advocating or justifying violence or extremist ideologies, whether online or in person.
- **Isolation:** Withdrawing from friends, family, or social circles to spend significant time with new groups, especially those with extremist views.
- **Change in Appearance:** Adopting specific clothing, symbols, or other markers associated with an extremist group.
- **Behavioural Aggression:** Acting with hostility or confrontational behaviour towards others, particularly targeting specific groups.
- **Increased Online Activity:** Excessive time spent on extremist websites, forums, or engaging with radical content on social media.

Hardest-to-Recognise Signs of Radicalisation:

- **Subtle Shifts in Beliefs:** Gradual adoption of "us versus them" narratives without overt aggression.
- **Secretive Behaviour:** Concealing online activities, sudden changes in privacy habits, or evasiveness about personal connections.
- **Changes in Social Group:** Developing relationships with new, unknown individuals or groups, particularly if there is secrecy about these connections.
- **Cultural/Religious Overlap:** Increased interest in cultural or religious practices that could be normal exploration but may mask deeper ideological shifts.
- **Increased Cynicism:** A growing distrust of mainstream systems (e.g., government, media) that may not appear extreme at first.

Patterns of behaviour linked to radicalisation:

- **Mentorship by Extremist Figures:** Seeking guidance or validation from radical leaders or groups.
- **Unexplained Travel:** Visiting areas or countries known for extremist activity.
- **Engagement with Extremist Content:** Frequent visits to or sharing of extremist websites, videos, or forums.
- **Adopting New Symbols:** Displaying flags, symbols, or clothing associated with extremist groups.
- **Obsession with Conspiracies:** Belief in conspiracy theories that justify mistrust or anger toward institutions or specific groups.
- **Increased Anxiety or Stress:** Feeling overwhelmed or angry about societal, political, or personal issues.
- **Sense of Injustice:** Strong feelings of victimisation or being misunderstood.
- **Romanticising Violence:** Expressing admiration for violent acts as a means of achieving goals

Distinguishing Radicalisation from other Behaviours

Understanding whether behaviours indicate radicalisation, rebellion, mental health struggles, or cultural exploration requires context and a pattern-based approach:

Expressing Extreme Ideologies:

- **Common Ground:** Interest in political, religious, or social topics.
- **Distinguishing Feature:** Use of absolutist language (e.g., “us vs. them”), rejection of alternate perspectives, or promotion of violence as a solution.
- **How to Respond:** Open a non-judgmental dialogue to understand the root of their beliefs. Avoid debate; instead, encourage critical thinking by questioning the basis of their claims.

Isolation from Previous Social Circles:

- **Common Ground:** Normal adolescent behaviour to seek independence or explore new interests.
- **Distinguishing Feature:** Sudden, complete withdrawal from family or diverse peer groups, often accompanied by secrecy or an exclusive association with individuals who share extreme views.
- **How to Respond:** Promote a safe and inclusive environment that encourages connection. Offer opportunities for reintegration into broader social settings.

Obsession with Conspiracy Theories:

- **Common Ground:** Curiosity about alternative explanations or mistrust of authority.
- **Distinguishing Feature:** A shift from curiosity to rigid belief, where conspiracy theories justify violence or hatred toward specific groups.
- **How to Respond:** Gently challenge the evidence behind these beliefs, introduce credible sources, and focus on building trust in reliable information.

Adopting Significant Changes in Appearance:

- **Common Ground:** Experimentation with fashion or identity.
- **Distinguishing Feature:** Abrupt adoption of clothing, symbols, or styles explicitly tied to an extremist group or ideology.
- **How to Respond:** Avoid direct criticism; instead, inquire about the significance of the change and provide alternative outlets for self-expression.

Increased Online Activity Focused on Extremist Content:

- **Common Ground:** Spending time online exploring personal interests.
- **Distinguishing Feature:** Regular engagement with extremist forums, content, or individuals promoting hate or violence.
- **How to Respond:** Monitor their online behaviour if/where appropriate and initiate conversations about online safety and critical evaluation of content.

Sudden Interest in Weaponry or Combat Training:

- **Common Ground:** Interest in self-defence or sports like martial arts.
- **Distinguishing Feature:** Fixation on acquiring weapons, learning combat skills, or preparing for violent acts, often linked to ideological motives.
- **How to Respond:** Address safety concerns immediately, involve relevant authorities if necessary, and guide them toward constructive physical outlets.

What is the Channel process in relation to reporting radicalisation:

The Channel process is a multi-agency approach in the UK which is designed to support individuals who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism or extremist ideologies. Below is an overview of how the process works when concerns about radicalisation arise:

Recognise and Record Concerns

Identify signs of vulnerability to radicalisation. These may include:

- Sudden behavioural changes.
- Increased isolation.
- Expressing extremist views.
- Accessing or sharing extremist materials online.

Record the concern clearly and factually, including details of the observed behaviours or disclosures.

Report to the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

- Inform the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) (e.g., Chloe Bingham at Nottingham Forest Community Trust).
- Provide all necessary information to the DSO so they can assess the concern accurately.

Assessment by the DSO

- The DSO evaluates the concern to determine the level of risk.
- If the risk is immediate, the DSO will contact emergency services or local police directly.
- For non-urgent cases, the DSO may consult with the local Prevent team or safeguarding board for advice.

Referral to Channel

- If the concern warrants further action, the DSO makes a referral to the local Channel panel via the local authority or the police's Prevent team.
- This referral includes detailed information about the individual and the concerns raised

Channel Panel Assessment

The Channel panel is a multi-agency body that assesses the referral. It consists of representatives from:

- Police
- Education
- Health services
- Local government
- Community organizations

The panel decides whether the individual is at risk of radicalisation and if they would benefit from support.

Support Plan

If accepted into the Channel process, a tailored support plan is created. This could include:

- Mentoring
- Education or employment support
- Mental health services
- Community activities

Monitoring and Review

- The support plan is regularly reviewed by the Channel panel to ensure progress and address any evolving needs.
- If the individual no longer requires support, they are exited from the Channel process.

Confidentiality and Safeguarding

- All actions are taken in line with safeguarding principles and confidentiality policies.
- Information is shared on a need-to-know basis, prioritizing the safety and well-being of the individual and the wider community.

For more specific guidance, refer to the Prevent Duty Guidance and the Channel Duty Guidance issued by the UK government.

Prevent Duty Guidance: [Prevent Guidance | GOV UK](#)

Channel Duty Guidance: [Channel Guidance | GOV UK](#)

Referral Pathways

When concerns about radicalisation arise, these should be reported via the **Channel** process, which is a voluntary, multi-agency process for identifying and supporting individuals at risk of radicalisation. The referral process involves:

1. **Initial Concern:** Concerns can be raised by anyone in the community, including family members, professionals, or concerned members of the public.
2. **Referral to Local Authority:** Contact your local authority's PREVENT team (via email or phone), who will coordinate with local partners.
3. **Assessment:** An assessment will be conducted by a local multi-agency panel to evaluate the risk and level of intervention needed.
4. **Intervention:** If the person is assessed as being at risk of radicalisation, a tailored intervention plan will be implemented, often involving mentoring, education, and other support services.

National Reporting

If you are unable to contact local authorities or if the concern is more urgent, you can report directly to the national **Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) Campaign**:

- **Website:** [ACT Campaign | GOV UK](#)
- **Phone Number:** 0800 789 321 (for anonymous reporting)

Points of Contact for Community and Professional Support

Prevent Partnership Coordinators (Local Authorities):

For general queries or concerns regarding PREVENT, you can reach out to the local PREVENT partnership coordinators at Nottingham City Council or Nottinghamshire County Council.

NSPCC's Helpline (for professionals seeking advice):

- **Phone:** 0800 800 5000
- **Email:** help@nspcc.org.uk

Anonymous Reporting Options

Fearless (Youth-Focused):

- **Website:** fearless.org
- **Reporting Process:** Submit concerns online anonymously through the form provided on the website.

Crimestoppers:

- **Phone:** 0800 555 111
- **Website:** crimestoppers-uk.org
- **Reporting Process:** Use their online form or call their anonymous helpline.

Anonymous online reporting:

- Use the **iREPORTit** app for reporting extremist content. (Available on Android)
- **Android:** [iREPORTit Android APP](#)
- **Link:** [iREPORTit ACT](#)

Local Reporting Processes in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

To report concerns or obtain guidance regarding individuals at risk of being radicalised or engaged in terrorist activity, members of the public and professionals can follow these key steps:

Contacting Local Authorities

Nottinghamshire Police:

The local police play a key role in investigating potential terrorism-related activity. If you are concerned about someone who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism, you can contact the police.

- **Contact Number:** 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency)
- **Website:** Nottinghamshire Police [Notts Police | Prevent](#)

Prevent Duty in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

As part of the government's PREVENT Duty, organisations like schools, universities, healthcare providers, and local authorities have an obligation to safeguard individuals from radicalisation and extremism. Concerns about radicalisation can be raised through a multi-agency approach. Local contact points include:

Nottingham City Council:

The local authority provides a range of services to support individuals at risk of radicalisation.

- **Contact Email:** prevent@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
- **Telephone:** 0115 876 1234

Nottinghamshire County Council:

- **Contact Email:** prevent@nottscc.gov.uk
- **Telephone:** 0300 500 8080

Safeguarding Leads and Specialist Support

There are designated safeguarding leads in various local organisations who can coordinate the referral process for individuals at risk of radicalisation.

Nottingham Forest Community Trust (NFCT):

- **Safeguarding Lead:** Chloe Bingham (Primary DSO)
- **Deputy Safeguarding Leads:** Liam Searle, Laura Campbell, Leanne McDonagh (Deputy DSOs)
- **Contact:** chloe.bingham@nottinghamforest.co.uk
- **Phone:** 07534 327 002

Submit a referral online:

- Visit the Nottinghamshire Prevent page: [Prevent Notts Police](#)

Training Opportunities

Home Office Prevent e-Learning:

Offers foundational training on the risks of radicalisation and the role of Prevent in safeguarding. Accessible via the [GOV.UK Prevent Training Platform](#).

Virtual College Safeguarding Courses:

Free courses on Prevent and related safeguarding topics like forced marriage and FGM. Registration required via [Virtual College](#).

Protect UK Platform:

Provides training and resources related to all strands of the CONTEST strategy, emphasising Protect and Prepare. Visit [Protect UK](#) for resources.

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP):

Access Prevent-related training modules, tailored to local safeguarding procedures. Learn more at the [NSCP Training Page](#).

Additional Resources

- **National Prevent Duty Guidance:** Provides detailed information for organizations covered by the Prevent duty.
Link: [Prevent Training | GOV.UK](#)
- **Local Counter Terrorism Profile:** Contact the Rushcliffe Borough Council at customerservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk for situational risk assessments or local Counter Terrorism Local Profiles.

For more comprehensive training or additional information, you can contact local authorities or explore national platforms like the Protect UK website. This will ensure all actions comply with both national and local guidelines

