

## Who are we?

The **Devon and Torbay PREVENT Partnership** works to protect local people and communities from violent extremism. Violent extremism involves supporting or using violence to achieve a cause – this can include terrorist acts. People are groomed into supporting violent extremism through the process of **radicalisation**.

**PREVENT** is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) – it is ultimately about safeguarding people who may be vulnerable to being radicalised within our communities. These people can come from any faith, ethnicity or culture. PREVENT aims to stop them supporting violent extremism and terrorism using early intervention and diversion opportunities. **We all have a role to play in raising awareness, safeguarding people who are vulnerable to radicalisation and in taking action against those who seek to radicalise others. This includes reporting any concerns you have (see below).**

## Key Updates

**Terrorism threat level** – following the murder of Sir David Amess MP and events in Liverpool **the national threat level has been raised to severe, meaning that an attack is highly likely**. This is a reminder of the importance of remaining vigilant and reporting concerns over radicalisation and suspicious activities.

**Intelligence** - the annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile was published in July. Key points include:

- **International terrorism and right wing extremism** remain the greatest threats.
- **Continued risks from people acting alone and using low-tech methods.** This is in addition to risks from sophisticated attacks involving multiple people, and from people returning from conflict zones.
- **Online extremism is a key concern** – this involves people being groomed online through social media and online games by extremist individuals, and **self-radicalisation** through exposure to extremist online material.
- Trends in local PREVENT referrals include links to far-right extremist ideologies, and cases with **unclear, mixed or unstable ideologies**. Complexity, vulnerability and unmet needs have also been a feature of many cases.
- **Concerns are growing around the radicalisation of under 18s** – who account for a high and growing proportion of PREVENT referrals.
- **Hate crime, intolerance and community tensions** can play an important role in creating the conditions for violent extremism.

## Hate crime and community tensions

**Hate and intolerance towards minority groups appears to be increasing.** In the last year police reported hate crimes rose by 7%, including increases in racial, homophobic and disablist hate crime. These trends are indicative of greater intolerance within communities and growing societal acceptability of hate related attitudes. Drivers are complex and likely to include tensions arising from the pandemic, anti immigrant sentiment, backlash against activism around minority rights, and the UK's exit from the European Union.

**Extremist groups continue to capitalise on national and international events** to promote disinformation, misinformation and conspiracy theories, advance their ideologies, and develop a mainstream audience. We have continued to observe graffiti, symbology and literature linked to extremist right wing groups in locations across Devon.

**It's important that you report any sightings of hate and extremist activity to the police** through their online [Partner Agency Information Sharing Form](#) or by calling **101**.

## Mixed, unclear and unstable ideologies

Ideas and beliefs that influence people's support for violent extremism may not always be linked to a clear ideology – and where an ideology is present it may be confused or contradictory.

Views and beliefs encouraging support for violent acts may not be driven by an extremist organisation or group, but instead by collections of individuals, subcultures or informal movements that promote hatred and violence towards particular groups or towards society as a whole. Examples that have gained increasing attention include school shootings and the involuntary celibate (Incel) subculture, which is based around misogynistic views that can promote grievance, intolerance, hate and in some cases violence towards women and wider society.

This complex landscape of hate, intolerance and violence has the potential, when combined with wider circumstances and vulnerabilities, to lead people to support or carry out acts of violence.

## What to look out for

### Potential indicators that someone is being radicalised:

- becoming more secretive and isolated from family and friends;
- spending more time communicating with new friends met online;
- becoming fixated on a certain subject;
- expressing intolerance or hatred of other people or communities;
- changing appearance to reflect association with a group or cause;
- thoughts about harming or using violence towards others.

These possible indicators should not be viewed in isolation, and judgement should be used to determine the significance of any behaviour.

### Radicalisation can happen to anyone, although some people may be more vulnerable to being radicalised if they:

- are socially isolated;
- are experiencing racism, discrimination, bullying or harassment;
- have a grievance against a person, group or cause.

For information about other factors that can make someone vulnerable to radicalisation visit the [Safer Devon website](#) and our [Preventing Exploitation Toolkit](#).

## Awareness raising resources

We actively encourage those professionals who are working with children and young people and their families and vulnerable adults to raise awareness as appropriate through signposting to these resources.

**Act Early PREVENT Safeguarding Campaign** – Counter Terrorism Policing campaign to encourage family and friends to be aware of the signs of radicalisation and share concerns. [Campaign](#) includes a [short film](#) and [partner toolkit](#). **You can also direct members of the public to the national PREVENT advice line: 0800 011 3764.** Act Early has also teamed with **Net Mums** to raise awareness with parents & families. [View the campaign here](#).

**Digital Safety** - Counter Terrorism Policing's [Digital Safety resource](#) with messages and signposting information for use in public facing comms.

**Online radicalisation** – Safer Devon's public facing [campaign](#) and [short film](#) to raise awareness of online radicalisation.

## SaFest 2021

The Devon Children and Families Partnership is hosting a virtual safeguarding conference from 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> November open to all partners working with children, young people and families in Devon and Torbay. We'd like to draw your attention to two events on 26<sup>th</sup>:

- A keynote speech about the local picture of radicalisation and extremism with input from Jennie Fisher, Regional FE/HE Prevent Co-Ordinator and DI Dave Eames, Prevent Lead, Counter Terrorism Policing South West.
- A practice focused workshop on hate crime and young people with input from the Police Diverse Communities Team and Babcock LDP.

You can [view the full schedule here](#) and book a place on the [DCFP website](#).

## Learning and development resources

E-learning is an easy and effective way to increase your awareness of radicalisation and violent extremism. **We encourage you to take ½ hr to refresh your knowledge.** Current e-learning includes:

- [Home Office Prevent e-learning](#) – to raise awareness about radicalisation and help you identify the signs to look out for.
- [Home Office ACT e-learning](#) – practical guidance on protecting your organisation from a terrorist incident.
- [Preventing Exploitation Toolkit](#) - online toolkit to assist your understanding of radicalisation and other forms of exploitation and help you report concerns.

**Your organisation may also provide a PREVENT learning offer – contact your workforce development lead for details.** If you are responsible for workforce development please consider including these resources in your organisation's training offers.

## Report your concerns

- **If there is an immediate risk to life contact 999**
- If you have concerns that someone is being radicalised you can contact the PREVENT team through their [online form](#), by emailing [referrals@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:referrals@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk) or telephoning **01392 225130**
- To report suspicious behaviour or activity call the Anti-terror Hotline on **0800 789 321**
- To report extremist online material, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism> or use the new iREPORTit app – download from [Apple iOS Store](#) and [Android Store](#)
- To report a hate crime or incident contact the police on **101**
- If you have a safeguarding concern not relating to radicalisation contact your local Child or Adult Safeguarding Partnership - [Devon Children and Families Partnership](#); [Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership](#); [Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership](#)
- To report information or intelligence (other than a crime or safeguarding concern) use the police's online [Partner Agency Information Sharing Form](#) or telephone **101**. Intelligence could relate to sightings of extremist graffiti, symbology and messages, or information about hate incidents or community tensions.