

What happens next?

When a referral is received, the Council Prevent and Gangs Co-ordinator or Police Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Officer will seek any clarification needed with the referrer. The dedicated Channel Police team may make a home visit.

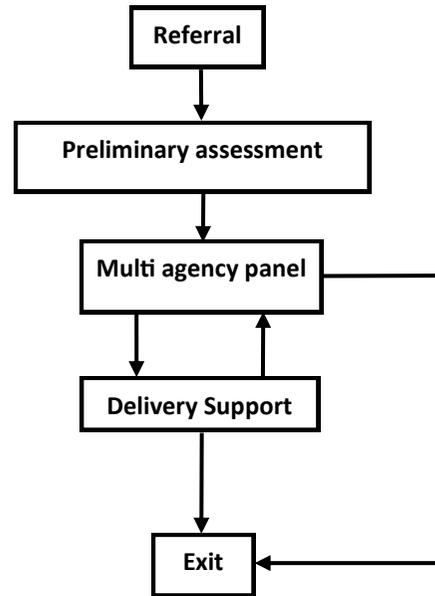
Where a referral meets Channel thresholds, it will be discussed at the multi-agency Channel Panel. The referrer is normally invited to attend so the Panel can jointly assess the vulnerability of the person concerned and establish a support package to address identified vulnerabilities. This will be reviewed at subsequent panel meetings and the case closed when the vulnerabilities are deemed to have been addressed.

Whilst a person may be referred to Channel without their agreement, involvement in Channel intervention is voluntary. If the person declines to be involved with the Channel process, that decision is respected.

If a referral does not meet Channel thresholds, the Prevent and Gangs Co-ordinator will discuss with the referrer if any support is required.

Information is shared within the framework of the Channel Information Sharing Protocol to which agencies involved are signatories. No entry is made on any criminal record.

How the referral process works:



For any queries and more information please contact:

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Prevent and Gangs Co-ordinator
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Samia Malik
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Helping to Prevent Extremism: A Guide to Channel



Background

The Government's counter- terrorism strategy CONTEST aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests from terrorism. The CONTEST strategy is made up of four key areas. One of these areas is Prevent which aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The **Channel Programme** is a key element in the Prevent area and aims to stop people being drawn into extremism or radicalisation. Channel is a multi-agency partnership led by the local authority with the police and other services to protect and divert children and adults from being drawn in to committing terrorist-related activity. Channel addresses **all** forms of extremism.

Recognising and referring individuals who show signs of vulnerability is not about criminal prosecution: it aims to protect them from risk and from possibly committing a crime or hurting themselves or others.

Through Channel, agencies work together to assess the nature and the extent of the risk of radicalisation and, where appropriate, to provide a support package tailored to individual needs. The agencies include education, health, children and adult social care, youth services, the police and others as appropriate.

Channel is similar to the way that we would seek to work in other multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Contest

Protect: To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.	Prepare: To Mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.	Pursue: To stop terrorist attacks.	Prevent: To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
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How to make a referral

Anyone who is concerned about a young person or adult at risk of extremism or radicalisation may make a referral to the Channel Programme.

Referral for young people up to and including age 18 (up to 25 with learning disability) should be made on the Harrow Referral Form (found on the Harrow LSCB website www.harrowlscb.co.uk) to Duty&Assess@harrow.gov.uk or Duty&Assess@harrow.gov.uk.cjsm.net detailing your concerns about the young person and relevant history.

Referrals for people aged 19 and over should be made on the Prevent Referral Form which can be obtained via enquiry to prevent@harrow.gov.uk

Referral Criteria

The young person or adult should be referred if there are concerns about any of the following:

- Changes in patterns of behaviour from known and predictable patterns with day to day behaviour becoming secretive or increasingly centred around extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Expressing attitudes that justify offending on behalf of the group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting or derogatory names or labels for another group and blaming that group for all social or political ills.
- Condoning or supporting violence or harm towards others and speaking about the imminence of harm from another group and the importance of action now.
- Planning to travel abroad to areas where there are known risks from terrorism and violent extremism.