



## **Prevent Policy**

**Approved by Board of Trustees: March 2023**

**To be reviewed every three years or in the event of a change in national policy:**

**Next review date: June 2026**

**Lead Staff Member: Jackie Rosenberg**

**Lead Trustee: Grace Reid**

## **Aim**

PDT wants to help people by preventing them from being drawn into terrorism or extremist violence. We do this by supporting those people who are vulnerable to becoming extremists; by working with institutions, sectors, and challenging extremist ideologies. As a public institution we have both a moral and a legal duty to ensure individuals are protected and that students and communities remain safe.

Safeguarding options are used to help ensure that the individual is protected and that communities remain safe.

## **What is Prevent?**

Prevent aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It is part of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy. The current threat from Terrorism and Extremism in the United Kingdom is real and severe and can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children and young people.

The Prevent strategy includes:

- *Extreme right-wing groups*
- *Radical religious beliefs*
- *Extreme animal rights/environmental groups that advocate violence*
- *Extreme nationalists and separatists*

## **What is radicalisation?**

Radicalisation means a person is encouraged to take part in violent or extreme actions or join groups that promote these. For example, someone who believes in animal rights can legitimately campaign against cruelty to animals by democratic actions like petitions, letters, taking part in peaceful demonstrations, etc. However, they could be radicalised by an extremist group into actions like sending threatening letters to scientists conducting animal research, attacking buildings etc.

## **What is extremism?**

Extremism is the use of extreme behaviour to support a belief or ideology. Not all extremism is harmful or criminal, but sometimes those who behave in an extreme way can go on to become terrorists.

## **Prevention is better than the cure**

PDT and its staff, in partnership with local authorities and other partnership agencies, are working to stop people becoming or supporting terrorists. They are doing this through education and by helping to build stronger, safer communities who feel empowered to reject extremism and terrorism in all its forms.

## **The threat**

Although extremely rare in the UK, terrorism is a danger to us all. Communities can be threatened by a minority of people who encourage or glorify violence in the name of a political ideology or a religion. Other threats include people who espouse racist or anti-religious views thereby stirring up hatred which can lead to violence.

## **Possible signs of a person becoming radicalised are:**

- *isolating themselves from family and friends.*
- *talking as if from a scripted speech.*
- *unwillingness or inability to discuss their views.*
- *a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others.*
- *increased levels of anger.*
- *increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.*

## **What does PDT do to protect you?**

Making racist, sexist, homophobic, extremist, sectarian or any other forms of hate comments are not tolerated by PDT, and disciplinary action is taken against anyone making them. By sectarian, we mean intolerance against groups within the same faith e.g. Protestant vs Catholic Christians, Shia vs Sunni Muslims. We promote tolerance, diversity, and respect for fundamental British values. Staff are trained in Prevent and equality and diversity.

Should a concern arise, we will take advice from the local Police Prevent Co-ordinator.

We have a process for ensuring that speakers and visitors will not speak to promote extremist views.

We are aware of local concerns in the areas that we are based and stay updated on any local and regional threats in the United Kingdom (UK).

We will also:

- ensure that Trustees and PDT's Leadership have a full and in-depth understanding of the radicalisation process, and the Prevent Duty so we are in the best position to lead and support all staff and students in this area. Trustees have regular training and receive safeguarding and Prevent updates throughout the year.
- empower staff through continuous training and development to better understand the radicalisation process and thereby equip staff to notice and identify behaviours that could be signs of radicalisation.
- challenge unethical behaviour and opinions that go against our Equality and Diversity Policy.
- encourage the expression of opinions about events in the world, encouraging questioning and providing alternative avenues of expression, within the framework of the Equality and Diversity policy.

## **How can you protect yourself and friends against radicalisation?**

If you have any worries about the issues raised here, discuss them with your family or your colleagues. If you believe strongly in a cause, make sure you research any groups or charities before supporting them.

### **Contact us**

If you have any concerns about someone you know being radicalised or would like advice, you can report any concerns or discuss any issues by calling or emailing the Deputy CEOs: 07949108112 – [jackie@pdt.org.uk](mailto:jackie@pdt.org.uk) or 07817940482 – [ola@pdt.org.uk](mailto:ola@pdt.org.uk)

**If there is an immediate threat to life or property, dial 999.**