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Hartlepool College
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Quality Assurance Policies & Procedures

SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT POLICY

CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

Appendix C - Prevent

The statutory Prevent **duty guidance: for England and Wales updated 6 March 2024**

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales-accessible

Introduction

Hartlepool College of Further Education fully recognises its statutory and moral duty to promote the safety and welfare of those students who are under the age of 18 years and those adult students who are deemed to be at risk; however, the College has a moral duty and is committed to the safeguarding of all students regardless of their age and vulnerability.

Understanding Prevent

The overall aim of our counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST   is to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK, its citizens and interests overseas, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. Prevent remains one of the key pillars of CONTEST, alongside the other three 'P' work strands:

- Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks
- Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

The objectives of Prevent are to:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism
- intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
- enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

Employer Responsibilities

As an employer we will need to:

- Ensure online safety and safeguarding measures as mentioned above are put into practice.

- Be alert to any concerns around radicalism and extremism.

Scope

This policy and its procedures will apply to:

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1. Governors
2. Employees of the College
3. Students / Apprentices
4. Volunteers
5. Contractors
6. Employers providing work placements or apprenticeships
7. Agency / Supply Staff
8. All other users of the College
9. All College activities

The College Policy and Procedures will always apply when the College is providing services or activities directly under the management of Hartlepool College staff and all services and activities that come under the responsibility of the College.

The College recognises that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its students is **everyone's** responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with a student and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding.

Prevent intervenes early by identifying people who are susceptible to radicalisation and providing support to those suitable for intervention. Where the police assess a radicalisation risk following a Prevent referral, a Channel panel will meet to discuss the referral, assess the risk and decide whether the person should be accepted into Channel. Once accepted, the panel agree a tailored package of support to be offered to the person. The panel is chaired by the local authority and attended by multi-agency partners such as police, education professionals, health services, housing and social services.

Channel

Channel is a voluntary process, and people must give their consent before they receive support. In cases where the person is under 18 years of age, consent is provided by a parent, guardian or the agency that has responsibility for their care. Where risks cannot be managed in Channel, they will be kept under review by the police.

What is Extremism?

Extremism is defined as any 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. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces. Prevent covers international and domestic terrorist threats and includes the activities of far right and far left groups and animal rights groups amongst others.

What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with specific and defined terrorist groups.

What is Terrorism?

Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person / people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use of threat must be designed to influence

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the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, or ideological cause.

Identifying Factors

The following indicators identify factors that may suggest a young person, or their family may be vulnerable to being drawn into extremism:

- Identity crisis - distance from culture religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them.

- Personal crisis - family tensions, sense of isolation, adolescence low self-esteem, disassociation from existing friendship groups and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.

- Personal circumstances e.g., migration, local community tensions, events affecting Country and region of origin, alienation from British Values having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy, unmet aspirations, perceptions of injustice feeling of failure, rejection of civic life, criminality, experiences of imprisonment, poor resettlement, reintegration, previous involvement with criminal groups.

The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame. Potential indicators of radicalisation are listed below:

- Refusal to engage with, or becoming abusive to, peers who are different from themselves
- Becoming susceptible to conspiracy theories and feelings of persecution
- Changes in friendship groups and appearance
- Rejecting activities they used to enjoy
- Converting to a new religion
- Isolating themselves from family and friends
- Talking as if from a scripted speech
- An unwillingness or inability to discuss their view
- A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- Increased levels of anger
- Increased secretiveness, especially around internet use
- Expressions of sympathy for extremist ideologies and groups, or justification of their
- actions
- Accessing extremist material online, including on Facebook or Twitter
- Possessing extremist literature
- Being in contact with extremist recruiters and joining, or seeking to join, extremist oOrganisations. Students who are susceptible to radicalisation may have low self-esteem or be victims of bullying or discrimination.

If staff are worried about a student, they should discuss their concerns with a safeguarding officer and record their concerns on CPOMS.

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Challenging Ideologies

The College positively encourages freedom of speech as set out in the British Values and that people have the freedom to have diverse views but that this policy seeks to ensure that those remain within the wider context of the British values and not attacking them i.e., mutual respect of others' views.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of the Colleges' wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation, it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. College staff should use their professional judgement in identifying students who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the Channel programme.

Raising concerns

Hartlepool College expects all our partners and stakeholders to report any potential wrongdoing. If you are aware of or suspect a violation of any unethical conduct, please report this matter to the College's Education & Welfare Officer or one of the designated safeguarding team.

Channel

A key part of the Prevent strategy is "Channel". Police work with public bodies, including local councils, social workers, NHS staff, schools, and the justice system to identify those at risk of being drawn into terrorism, assess what the risk might be and then develop tailored support for those referred to them. This could range from mentoring to things like anger management or drug and alcohol programmes.

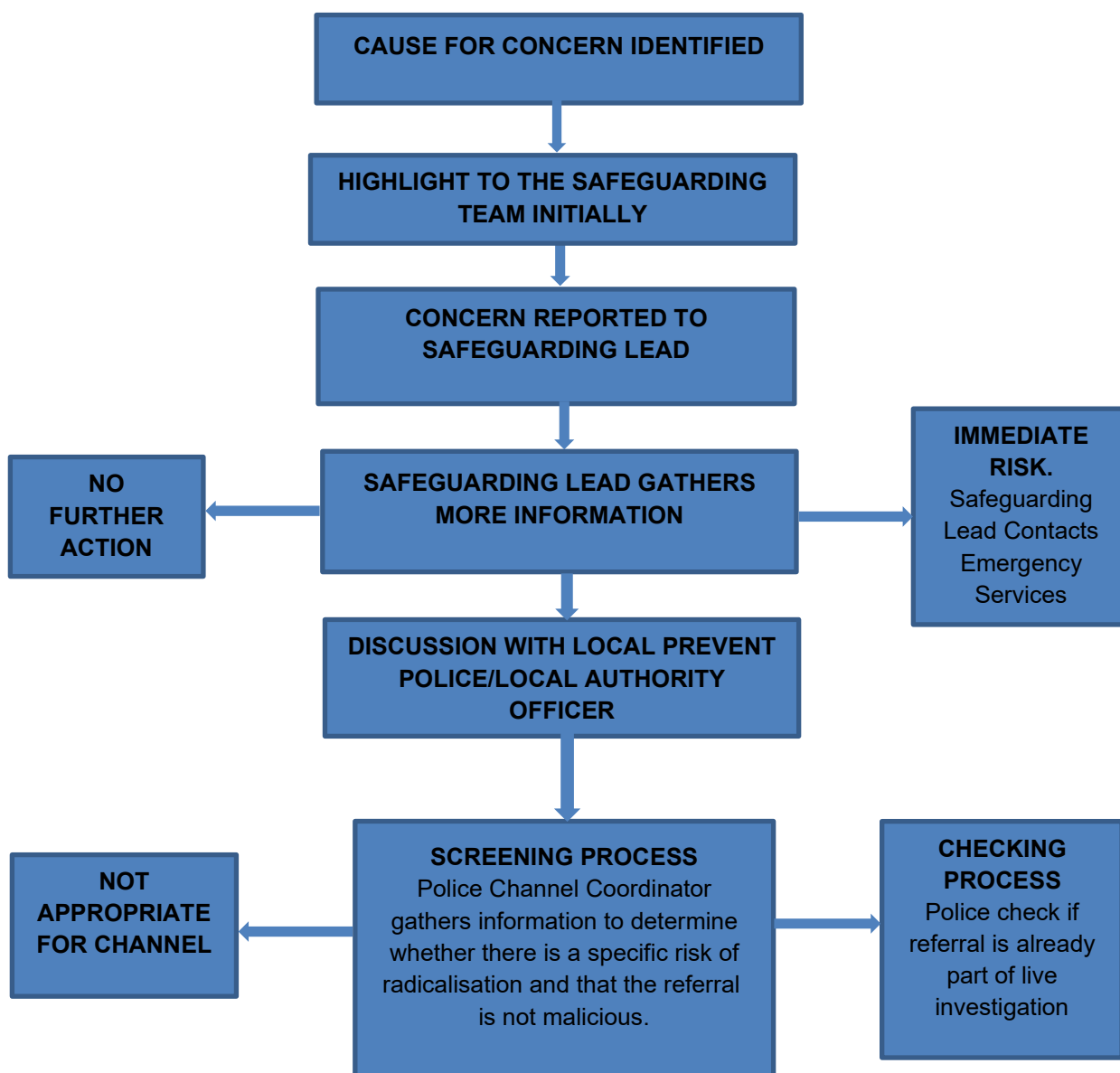To ensure compliance with the Prevent duty, all staff must make sure that they:

- Undertake training in the Prevent duty as identified by the College to ensure they understand the factors that make people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and are able to recognise this vulnerability and aware of what action to take.

- Exemplify British/Community Values into their work and practice and opportunities in the curriculum are used to promote these values to students.

Staff should use their professional judgement and discuss with a Designated Safeguarding Person if they have any concerns. Once assessed, and if appropriate, this will be referred to the Channel Panel.

The College's referral Process is set out in the flowchart below.

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Channel Referral Process Flowchart

CAUSE FOR CONCERN IDENTIFIED

HIGHLIGHT TO THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM INITIALLY

CONCERN REPORTED TO SAFEGUARDING LEAD

NO FURTHER ACTION ← **SAFEGUARDING LEAD GATHERS MORE INFORMATION** → **IMMEDIATE RISK.** Safeguarding Lead Contacts Emergency Services

DISCUSSION WITH LOCAL PREVENT POLICE/LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICER

NOT APPROPRIATE FOR CHANNEL ← **SCREENING PROCESS** Police Channel Coordinator gathers information to determine whether there is a specific risk of radicalisation and that the referral is not malicious. → **CHECKING PROCESS** Police check if referral is already part of live investigation

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The College recognises that safeguarding is not just about protecting students from deliberate harm, neglect, and failure to act. It relates to the broader aspects of care and education and the key College policies below should be read in conjunction with this policy.

- Code of Conduct for All Staff

- Distribution of Leaflets, Posters and Other Publicising Material

- External Speakers and Events Policy

- First Aid Standard

- Fundraising Policy

- Health, Safety and Welfare Policy

- Learner IT Acceptable Use Policy

- Looked After Children Policy

- Multi Faith Prayer Room Policy

- Staffing and Recruitment Appointment Policy and Guidelines

- Staff Computer Acceptable Use Policy

- Staff Social Media Policy

- Student Bullying and Harassment Policy

- Student Visits Policy and Procedures

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