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Quality Assurance Policies & Procedures

SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT POLICY

CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

Appendix G - Prevent

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 National Prevent Strategy is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy – CONTEST. It addresses all forms of terrorism and is designed to tackle the problem at its roots, preventing people from supporting or becoming involved in terrorism.

Prevent has three clear objectives:

- Challenging the ideology that supports terrorism and those who promote it.
- Protecting vulnerable individuals to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
- Supporting sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

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:

1. Governors
2. Employees of the College
3. Students / Apprentices
4. Volunteers
5. Contractors
6. Employers providing work placements or apprenticeships

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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.

Preventing Radicalisation

The aim of the Prevent Strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Act this has simply been expressed as the need to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This includes not just violent extremism but also nonviolent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

Students are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Like protecting students from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting them from this risk is part of the College's safeguarding approach.

Where deemed appropriate, the College will seek external support for students through referrals to the Channel Programme. This programme aims to work with the individual to address their specific vulnerabilities and prevent them becoming further radicalised.

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

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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:

- Use of inappropriate language
- Possession or accessing violent extremist literature
- Behavioural changes
- The expression of extremist views
- Advocating violent actions and means
- Association with known extremists
- Articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders
- Using extremist views to explain personal disadvantage
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations
- Seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology

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

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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 behavior 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:

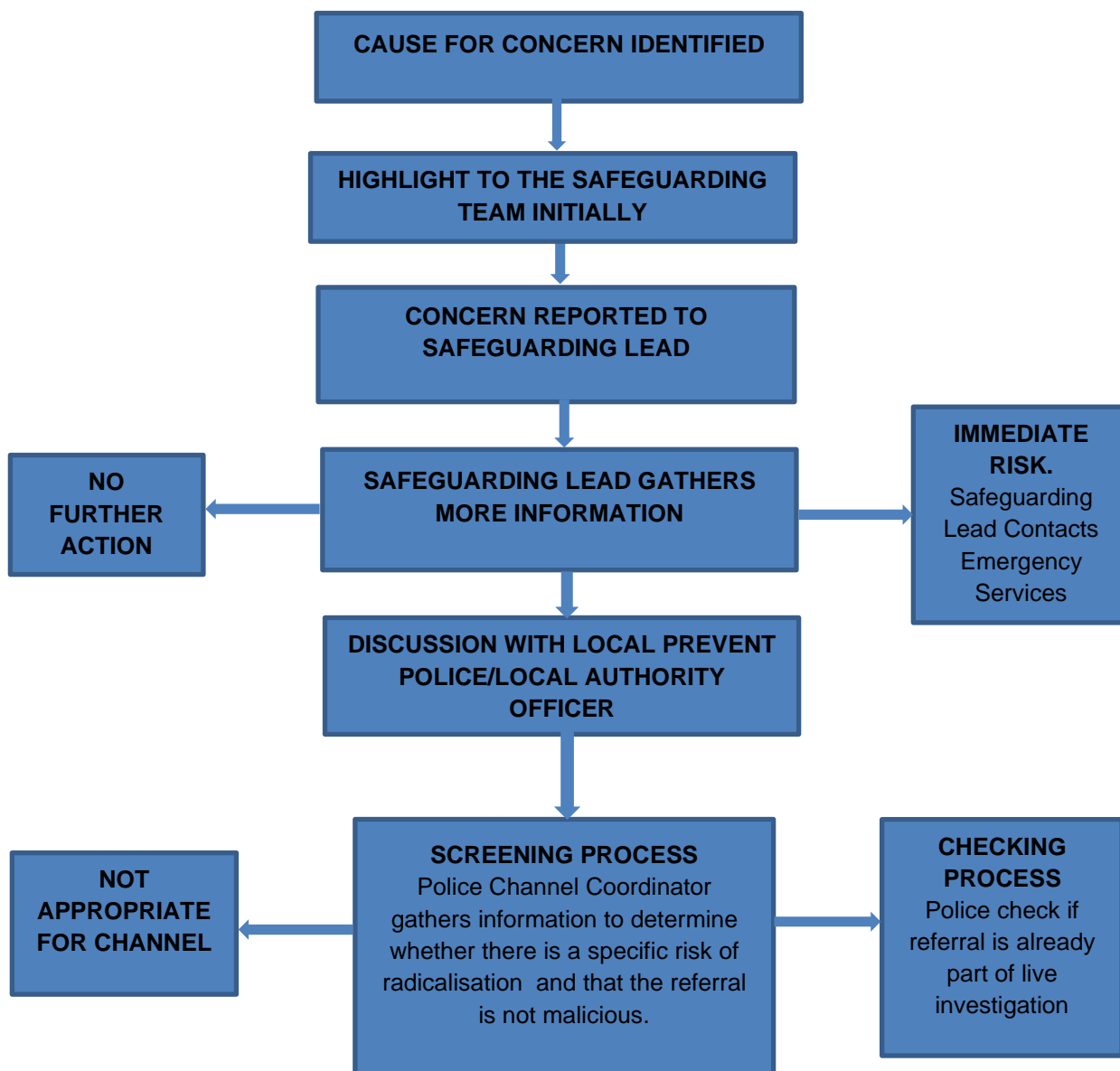
- Undertake training in the Prevent duty as identified by the College to ensure they understand the factors that make people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and are able to recognise this vulnerability and aware of what action to take.
- Exemplify British/Community Values into their work and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



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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