

## Prevent Policy

### Background

Sport Structures has had a longstanding commitment to safeguarding the wellbeing of its learners. The Children's Act 2004 mandated the establishment of local safeguarding children boards. Sport Structures recognised the importance of multi-agency working and established a comprehensive safeguarding procedure. This strategy extends Sport Structures' commitment to safeguarding to include protecting its learners from the risk of harm from radicalisation and being drawn into terrorism.

Since early 2003, the United Kingdom has had a long-term strategy for countering national and international terrorism (known within Government as CONTEST). Its aim is to reduce the risk from national and international terrorism so that people can go about their daily lives freely and with confidence. The strategy is divided into four principal strands:

**Pursue** - terrorists and their operations at home and abroad

**Prepare** - for the consequences and improve resilience

**Protect** - reduce vulnerability of the public and UK interests

**Prevent** - terrorism by tackling radicalisation and its underlying cause

### The Prevent Strategy

The aim of the Prevent strategy, published by the government in 2011, is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 this has simply been expressed as the need to "prevent people from being drawn into terrorism." This document focuses on the 'Prevent' strand of the strategy.

The 2011 Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address

Terrorist groups often draw on extremist ideology, developed by extremist organisations. Some people who join terrorist groups have previously been members of extremist organisations and have been radicalised by them. The Government has defined extremism in the Prevent strategy as: "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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces."

A system of threat level has been created which represents the likelihood of an attack in the near future. The five levels are:

Critical - an attack is expected imminently

Severe - an attack is highly likely

Substantial - an attack is a strong possibility

Moderate - an attack is possible but not likely

Low - an attack is unlikely

### The Prevent Strategy Principles

Sport Structures is aware of the important role it plays in helping prevent people being drawn into terrorism, which includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

Sport Structures recognises that radicalised learners can act as a focal point for further radicalisation through personal contact with fellow learners and through their social media activity. Where radicalisation happens out of classroom sessions, the learners concerned may well share his/her issues with other learners. The role that staff play in recognising and responding appropriately to any changes in behaviour and outlook of learners cannot be under-estimated and will be central to this strategy, going forward.

In its efforts to comply with the duty, Sport Structures, through this strategy and associated documentation, will demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in its area and what steps can be taken to minimise any risk to its staff, learners and community. For learners every effort will be made to identify any radicalising influences. Learners will be taught British Values of respect and tolerance throughout their apprenticeship programmes to lessen the risk that they become radicalised. Employers and apprentices will be shared information on prevent to allow them to support in this endeavour. Any changes in behaviour or areas of concern raised by an employer, learner or a tutor will be reported immediately and the safeguarding procedures will be followed (see Sport Structures Safeguarding Policy – document reference 2.3 for more information).

### Key Objectives:

This strategy has 5 key objectives:

1. To ensure that learners and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing violent extremism.
2. To promote and reinforce shared values and to listen and support the learner voice.
3. To break down differences between different learner communities including supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and to engage all learners in playing a full and active role in wider engagement in society.
4. To ensure that Sport Structures is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination and that learners feel safe.
5. To provide support for learners who may be at risk by providing appropriate sources of advice and guidance.

### External Speakers and Events

Sector specific guidance for further education was issued in September 2015, to be read alongside the guidance contained in the revised prevent duty guidance July 2015. This provides guidance on external speakers and events.

Sport Structures will assess the risks associated with any planned events and consider carefully whether the views likely to be expressed constitute extremist views that may risk drawing people into

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terrorism. Only where Sport Structures is confident that any such risk can be fully mitigated will the event be allowed to proceed.

The external hire of Sport Structures facilities is subject to the booking being deemed acceptable under their policies and procedures including those relating to risk management, health and safety and safeguarding.

Sport Structures will comply with its legal duties in terms of both ensuring freedom of speech and preventing radicalisation.

### Channel

Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist related activity. It is a key element of the prevent strategy and uses a multiagency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners, the police and local community.

Sport Structures will make Channel referrals to the nominated police Prevent lead.