Bath College

Prevent Strategy

Introduction and Context

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies (including educational institutions) in the exercise of their functions to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'.

The Prevent Strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of a Government counterterrorism strategy to develop a robust counter terrorism programme – CONTEST. CONTEST has four elements Pursue, Protect, Prepare and Prevent. Prevent aims to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorists by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The UK faces a range of terrorist threats. The most significant of these threats is currently from terrorist organisations in Syria and Iraq, and Al Qa'ida associated groups. But terrorists associated with the extreme right also pose a continued threat to our safety and security, particularly in the South West.   All the terrorist groups who pose a threat to us seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. The Prevent strategy seeks to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which needs to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health

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 current threat level from international terrorism in the UK and is **SUBSTANTIAL** which means that a terrorist attack is likely.

Further Education colleges are major education and training providers for the 16 – 25 year age group, particularly young people from ethnically diverse, and socially and economically disadvantaged areas. Education, like other key sectors, has a responsibility to promote values of openness, tolerance and facilitating free debate which is central to being a British citizen. Colleges have a part to play in fostering shared values and promoting cohesion. Colleges should focus on the risks of violent extremism, which represents the greatest threat at national level, while recognising that other forms of violence and extremism can and do manifest themselves within colleges and other training settings.

This strategy has the following objectives:

1. To promote and reinforce shared values; to create space for free and open debate; and to listen and support the learner voice.
2. To break down segregation among different student communities including by supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and to engage all students in playing a full and active role in wider engagement in society
3. To ensure student safety and that the College is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination
4. To provide support for students who may be at risk and appropriate sources of advice and guidance
5. To ensure that students and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing violent extremism, recognising current practice which contributes to the Prevent agenda
6. Identify areas for improvement through risk assessment and develop a coordinated action plan

In order to achieve these objectives, the strategy will concentrate on four areas;

1 Leadership and Values

To provide an ethos which upholds core values of shared responsibility and wellbeing for all students, staff and visitors and promotes respect, equality and diversity and understanding. This will be achieved through:

• Promoting core values of respect, equality and diversity, democratic society, learner voice and participation
• Building staff and student understanding of the issues and confidence to deal with them
• Deepening engagement with local communities
• Actively working with local schools, local authorities, police and other agencies

2 Teaching and Learning

To provide a curriculum which promotes knowledge, skills and understanding to build the resilience of students, by undermining extremist ideology and supporting the learner voice. This will be achieved through:

• Embedding equality, diversity and inclusion, wellbeing and community cohesion
• Promoting wider skill development such as social and emotional aspects of learning
• A curriculum adapted to recognise local needs, challenge extremist narratives and promote universal rights
• Encouraging active citizenship/participation and learner voice.

3 Student Support

To ensure that staff are confident to take preventative and responsive steps working with partner professionals, families and communities. This will be achieved through:

- Establishing strong and effective student support services
- Listening to what is happening in the College and the community
- Implementing anti-bullying strategies and challenging discriminatory behaviour
- Helping students and staff know how to access support in College and or through community partners
- Supporting at risk students through safeguarding and crime prevention processes
- Focussing on narrowing the attainment gap for all students

4 Managing Risks and Responding to Events

To ensure that the College monitors risks and is ready to deal appropriately with issues which arise. It will do this through:

- Understanding the nature of the threat from violent extremism and how this may impact directly or indirectly on the College
- Understanding and managing potential risks within the College and from external influences
- Responding appropriately to events in local, national or international news that may impact on students and communities
- Ensuring measures are in place to minimise the potential for acts of violent extremist within the College
- Ensuring plans are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident within the College
- Developing effective ICT security and responsible user policies

These four areas and subsequent actions are addressed and monitored via the Prevent Risk Assessment and Action Plan.

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Reviewed annually