



Home Office

PREVENT

Community Events Handbook



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Introduction to Prevent Engagement

Prevent safeguards people who are at risk of radicalisation, stopping them from being exploited into supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists. It is also about building resilience in communities, empowering them to tackle the causes of radicalisation locally through a variety of projects and civil society organisations.

The strength of Prevent comes from communities working together to ensure that people who are at-risk can be offered support. Prevent is delivered through a wide network of partners within communities, civil society organisations and public sector institutions. Through these partnerships, almost 3,000 people have been adopted to Prevent's voluntary and confidential Channel programme since 2012, which supports people who are considered to be vulnerable to exploitation from terrorist influences.

Community and Elected Member engagement

Community engagement is a core part of the Prevent strategy and, within the Home Office, is led by the Communities & Engagement team. Community engagement aims to build local awareness and knowledge of Prevent, and importantly, helps us within the Home Office to understand issues on-the-ground. As a locally driven programme, Prevent relies on relationships to operate. Every community is different, so it is important that Prevent delivery, including engagement, is tailored to each local area and reflects the specific challenges that they face.

Engagement is led by Prevent Coordinators and Community Engagement Officers across the country, who utilise their local networks and relationships to engage a range of different audiences. In the Communities & Engagement team, we can support this work by fielding speakers for locally-led events, forums and roundtables. Through engaging in this way, we hope that local areas will feel more empowered to help lead the important work that is necessary to safeguard individuals against radicalisation.

What might engagement involve?

Elected Members

Gaining buy-in from Elected Members can help to facilitate Prevent delivery, unblock issues, and can provide leadership and scrutiny locally to improve Prevent nationally. Areas can engage Elected Members through written briefings, scrutiny boards and roundtable events. We have developed an Elected Member handbook. Please get in touch with preventcommunications@homeoffice.gov.uk for a copy.

Community

There are a range of different ways to engage communities locally, varying from communications products, one to one meetings with influential stakeholders, to larger roundtable events. By engaging consistently with communities, you help to build a trusted relationship which will not only assist with the delivery of Prevent, but can also increase people's confidence in the programme and the referrals process, and give insight into other community issues.

Prevent Advisory Groups

Areas should consider what role sustained engagement could look like. Many Local Authorities have established a Prevent Advisory Group (PAG), which brings together stakeholders with an interest in Prevent on a permanent membership body to discuss, debate, and influence local Prevent delivery. Similar groups have been set up for Elected Members, however, these focus primarily on the statutory obligations that come with Prevent and scrutiny of the policy both locally and nationally. Over two-thirds of Local Authorities now have, or are setting up, a Prevent Advisory Group. If you would like support to create one in your area, contact the team!

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement will be led at a local level, and encompasses engaging not only with the civil society organisations and partners in your area (such as local pressure groups, academics and so forth), but with critics too. Stakeholder engagement is very broad, but generally involves holding stakeholder roundtables, engaging with studies and surveys, and PR activity such as partners' campaigns/social media posts.

Why hold Prevent community engagement events?

Community engagement is a broad package encompassing all the work above, and events are an important part of that, helping to generate positive and long-lasting engagement activity:

- **90%** of attendees would recommend attending a Prevent roundtable event to their friends/family.
- **84%** of attendees report leaving with a more positive opinion of Prevent.
- **63%** of Prevent Priority Areas have reported that people are now more willing to engage with Prevent.

Community engagement events can help to:

Ensure that those who need it accept support

Prevent is voluntary. It relies on people trusting the programme and accepting support. Having honest conversations about Prevent and Channel locally can help build understanding and confidence so that people who need Prevent support are more likely to accept it.

Manage potential tensions

Having an open dialogue with communities on Prevent can help to dispel myths and misconceptions about Prevent and decrease tensions around the programme.

Give reassurance and provide transparency

Having an open dialogue can provide reassurance about the local work being done to combat terrorism. This can complement other proactive communications such as newsletters, which highlight local activity, provide explanations of the programme, or celebrate success.

Explain the referral process

Providing information about the referral process and discussing some case studies can help people understand who Prevent supports, as well as encourage quality referrals from the community.

Meet area performance indicators

All Prevent priority areas, as part of their grant agreements, are required to develop and deliver a programme of community and Elected Member engagement. Regularly holding engagement sessions to create meaningful partnerships between Government, civil society and communities, will help you successfully meet these requirements.

Organising a community engagement event

Organising a community roundtable is partly about staying on top of the logistics, such as making sure there are suitable speakers, a venue and refreshments, and sending invites out on time. But it's also vital to consider your strategic objectives; what your audience will want to hear, the message(s) you want to land and how to mitigate any risks. This handbook gives some general advice on both the logistical and strategic elements of community engagement.

The advice is not prescriptive, and we encourage all areas to use a model that suits their local experience - however we hope this will be a useful tool for considering the objectives and outcomes you want to achieve through community engagement events, plus some helpful tips on planning and logistics.

First, consider your objectives

When organising a community roundtable, it's important to consider what you specifically want to achieve through this piece of engagement, and how it fits into your wider strategic objectives. For example, events can help to:

- Increase awareness of how Prevent works in the community or increase understanding of specific counter-terrorism related topics, such as extremists' use of the internet.
- Engage influencers to advocate more vocally for Prevent within the community.
- Myth-bust or de-escalate tensions following an incident.

If you know broadly what you want to achieve, you should narrow this down by setting out some SMART objectives. These are:

Specific
Measurable
Attainable
Relevant
Timebound

For example, your event could aim to:

- Raise awareness of the links between mental health and vulnerability to radicalisation amongst safeguarding leads in 15 local schools, leading to an increased understanding by the end of the event (***this event will be used as an example throughout this document***).
- Support an increase in the number of Prevent referrals coming from community and family members by 5% over the next two years, by measurably improving trust and understanding among these communities.
- Recruit 5 members of a new Prevent Advisory Group, to be set up in the next month.

Understand your audience

Once you know what you want your event to achieve, it's time to start considering who your audience should be and what they would benefit from hearing.

So, for the mental health event example above, your primary audience would be the education sector, and the profession would be teachers and safeguarding leads.

Next, it may be useful to consider more of the specifics of your audience. Some examples to consider are listed below:



General

- What are they (vital statistics)?
- Who are they (characteristics)?
- Where are they (location, lifestyle)?

Specifics

- Behaviours
- Attitudes
- Barriers
- Motivations/needs
- What do they care about?

Delivery

- Where do they get info? How much do they want?
- When are they most receptive?
- Who influences them?

Virtual or in-person?

The Covid-19 pandemic made in-person engagement events difficult, and at times impossible, to hold. However, this did not mean local engagement had to stop, and many areas extended their new virtual ways of working to holding innovative, online events for their local community.

These events have shown that we do not always need to hold events in-person for them to be effective, but it's important to weigh up the benefits of virtual vs in-person engagement before you start organising your event – please see the next page for some examples:

Pros: Virtual

- Higher reach (but can exclude some demographics)
- Easier to secure a speaker
- No travel time required
- Less resource intensive and less cost implications
- Potential for greater frequency
- Easier to manage conversations and control the dialogue
- Less daunting for some

Pros: In Person

- More engaging (and empowering)
- Body language cues (reading the room)
- Fewer distractions
- More nuance to the conversation
- Higher 'value' to the viewer (and the speaker)
- Conversations 'in the margins'
- More secure

Setting the agenda

The considerations above should have helped you to narrow down what your event is setting out to achieve, the audience(s) you'll be inviting to come along, and whether you'll be hosting the event in-person or virtually. The next step in planning your roundtable is to flesh out the agenda of the event. There are three broad objectives the Communities & Engagement team find it useful to stick to when planning agendas, and these are to:



Set the scene



Land the key messages



Engage (Q&A)

Setting the scene

- Welcoming a guest, such as from the Home Office, who set the strategic context.
- A video introduction, outlining what Prevent is and how the programme works (*please see the suggested resources below for examples*).
- An overview of the current threat to the UK from terrorism, and the wider strategic landscape within which Prevent operates.
- Outlining priorities for the Prevent programme.

Landing the message

- Communicating in an emotive and impactful way, using case studies and real-life examples to add relatability.
- Utilising influential speakers where appropriate – consider your audience here, who they trust and listen to. This could be an academic, an official from another government department such as DfE or DHSC, or a local influencer.

Engage

- Q&A session, giving attendees the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers. This is the most important part of the roundtable, and it's vital not to avoid difficult questions, to respond fully, and follow-up on any actions highlighted during the session.
- Being inclusive – whether that's asking for written contributions beforehand, using the chat function or 'raise your hand' function online, or using tech such as Sli.do to allow for anonymous contributions.
- Collecting feedback (*see the feedback section and form at the end of this handbook*).

This example agenda can be amended as appropriate, though you should be mindful of leaving plenty of time for discussion – and always expect to overrun, so don't overfill the agenda with too many speakers! Two or three speakers should be enough.

	Agenda Item	Introduced by	Timings
1	Welcome and Introductions	Chairperson	10 mins
2	Overview of threat to UK from terrorism and Prevent response OR Thematic presentation decided in collaboration with the Local Authority.	Home Office Prevent	20 mins
3	Local Risk and Local Delivery	Prevent Co-ordinator	10 mins
4	Discussion and Q&A	All, facilitated by Chairperson	1 hour 10 mins
5	Closing Remarks	Home Office Prevent	5 mins
6	Expressions of Thanks and Next Steps <i>(This can also be an opportunity to ask attendees to fill in their feedback forms)</i>	Chairperson	5 mins

Example schedule for organising an in-person event

This schedule will differ slightly for in-person and virtual events, and depending on whether the Home Office is speaking, but should be a useful reference point. If the Home Office will not be speaking, please just notify us of the time and date but you do not need to follow the other steps involving us:

Week 1

- Local Prevent team gets in touch with Home Office Prevent to identify a suitable date and time. While events tend to take place in the evening (from 18:00-20:00), you should consider a morning or lunchtime event if your audience would be more receptive to this.
- Local team to send a draft list of names of speakers and attendees with organisational details to Home Office Prevent.
- Identify and secure a suitable Chairperson depending on the intended audience. For example this could be the Prevent Coordinator or a senior local authority figure.
- Check internal local authority clearance processes to ensure roundtable can take place in the below timeframe.

Week 2

- Secure venue, IT equipment and book refreshments if required.
- Send invites at least two weeks ahead of event, including a link to Sli.do to allow collection of questions.
- Open up Sli.do to allow participants to submit questions ahead of time and set up the event feedback form.
- (If required/desirable) Secure the attendance of Prevent project provider and/or other local Prevent staff

Week 3

- Local Prevent team updates HO Prevent on numbers for the event and chases up responses and/or sends additional invites.
- (If required/desirable, e.g. if the Chairperson is not the Prevent Coordinator), brief the Chairperson on the attendees and the final agenda (see below).
- (If required/desirable) Briefing provided by HO Prevent to senior officials.
- (If required/desirable) Briefing provided by Prevent Coordinator to senior local authority officers or locally elected members.

Week 4 – Final week

- Home Office Prevent sends PowerPoint slides and online films 24 hours prior to event. **NB: for an online event, we would recommend doing this in Week 3 to ensure there is adequate time to fix any tech issues.**
- Community Roundtable Event takes place.

Week 5

- Prevent Coordinator collates and evaluates attendee feedback forms.
- Prevent Coordinator sends copies of feedback forms to Home Office Prevent, highlighting anything which needs further action (e.g. follow up meetings) and recommendations for the next event.

Invitations

Once you've sorted out the agenda and begun organising your schedule, you will likely want to draft an invitation to send out to invitees. It's always best to do this as early as possible, particularly if the event will be held in-person as this requires more diary time. You will know how best to communicate with your invitees, but the below invitation (which was for an Elected Members event) can be tailored for use during other community events and tweaked depending on whether the event is in-person or online.

Dear [XYZ],

Invitation to Prevent Roundtable with the Home Office

Prevent is one of the four stands of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. The Prevent programme uses early intervention to protect individuals and communities from the harms of terrorism. Prevent works in a similar way to programmes designed to safeguard people from other harms, such as gangs, drug abuse, and physical and sexual abuse, by tackling the underlying causes of radicalisation. Intervention support for vulnerable individuals is both confidential and voluntary. Prevent is delivered through a wide network of partners within communities, civil society organisations and public sector institutions.

In [AREA NAME], we have been delivering on Prevent in partnership with our local communities, police and a range of statutory and third-sector organisations. The local response to Prevent is both focused and proportionate to risk, with commitment amongst the statutory partners to take decisions in an informed, transparent and open manner with clear accountability to local communities. Our purpose is to reach the small number of people who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorist-related activities.

The [AREA NAME] Elected Members Discussion is an opportunity for elected members to meet with senior officials from the Home Office to have a dialogue about Prevent and be able to ask questions to better understand and influence the national policy and decision making. Councillors are well placed to

communicate the concerns of their constituents and share information on community tensions with the local authority.

In your position as an Elected Member you hold key relationships and influence in the community, and your support with delivering Prevent can help to safeguard vulnerable people in [AREA NAME].

This event will be held on [DATE / TIME/ LOCATION/ ONLINE LINK]. If you would like to attend this event, please contact [ORGANISER NAME AND DETAIL]

While those of us in offices are often glued to our emails, it may be easier to invite some attendees through different means, particularly if they are community members who may not have easy or regular access to the internet:

- Newsletters
- Website
- Flyers at CSO centres or offices
- Formal invite
- Word of mouth
- Social media

It's also useful to consider risks and mitigations – such as the event being joined and dominated by hostile groups or disruptive individuals if the invitation is shared too widely. One way to mitigate this could be through pre-registration, enabling you to keep track of who's planning to come along. You can then send a link (if the event is online) or specific address (if in-person) to those who have confirmed attendance closer to the time.

Our offer to you

Community and Elected Member roundtables should be delivered locally as much as possible, with local experts and speakers presenting who will be tuned into the nuances of Prevent delivery in each area. However, the Home Office can also be a supportive voice in certain situations, representing Prevent at a national level and helping to address any misconceptions or concerns about the programme. Where there is a local need to do so, we are happy to field speakers from the Home Office to support local engagement events.

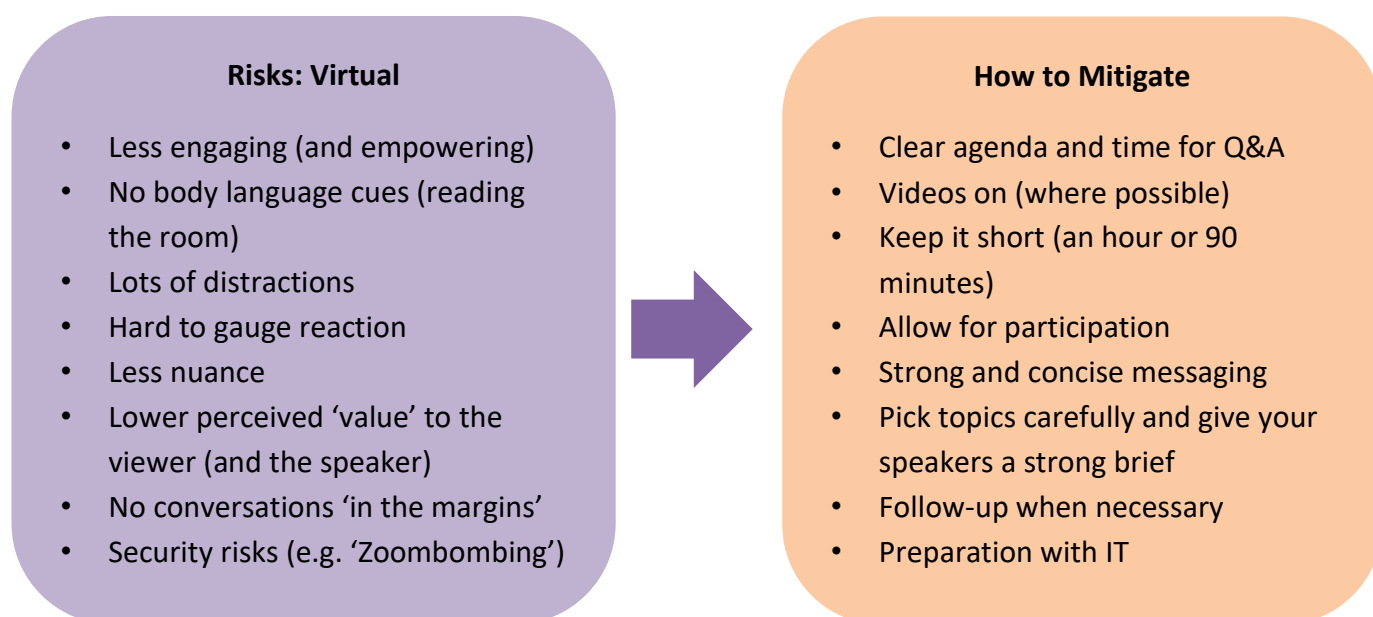
Over the past few years, the Communications & Engagement team have joined over 170 Local Authority community and Elected Member events. The Home Office presentation usually takes the form of either:

- 1) **A general presentation introducing Prevent.** This covers the threat from terrorism, the narratives of different groups, the model of radicalisation and how Prevent works. The presentation focusses equally on Daesh/Al Qa'ida-inspired and extremist right-wing terrorism, as well as other emerging threats, and is most appropriate for events where attendees are less familiar with the realities of Prevent.
- 2) **A thematic presentation tailored specifically to local risks or issues.** This could cover topics such as extremist right-wing terrorism, mental health, local project providers

or the role of friends and family in Prevent. This type of presentation may be more appropriate for a specific audience (such as local CSOs) with a base understanding of Prevent.

Tips for running a virtual roundtable

If you choose to hold your roundtable virtually rather than in-person, there are some additional considerations to bear in mind. Below are some of the common difficulties you may run into with virtual engagement events, and some suggestions of how you could mitigate them, as well as some general tips for running events virtually. **A full list of resources and useful content for holding virtual events can be found at Annex B.**



- **Choose a suitable platform for your event and ensure there is adequate security.** There are various options to choose from – including Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Google Hangouts, WebEx, or Skype – and they each have unique benefits and risks. Speak to your Local Authority's IT team ahead of holding any event to make sure you get the right advice.
 - Be prepared to remove anyone who is being offensive or disruptive, and consider having back-up links in case you need to pause altogether.
- **Iron out technical problems ahead of time.** Make sure you can play (with sound) any videos included in the presentation, and run through the presentation slides to check that there's no time delay or other issues.
 - It's good practice to hold 'tech run-through', either on the day or in the days leading up to the event. This enables participants (such as the chair and speakers) to introduce themselves ahead of time, iron out any technical issues and ensure everyone is well-briefed on any topical sensitivities, such as recent incidents.

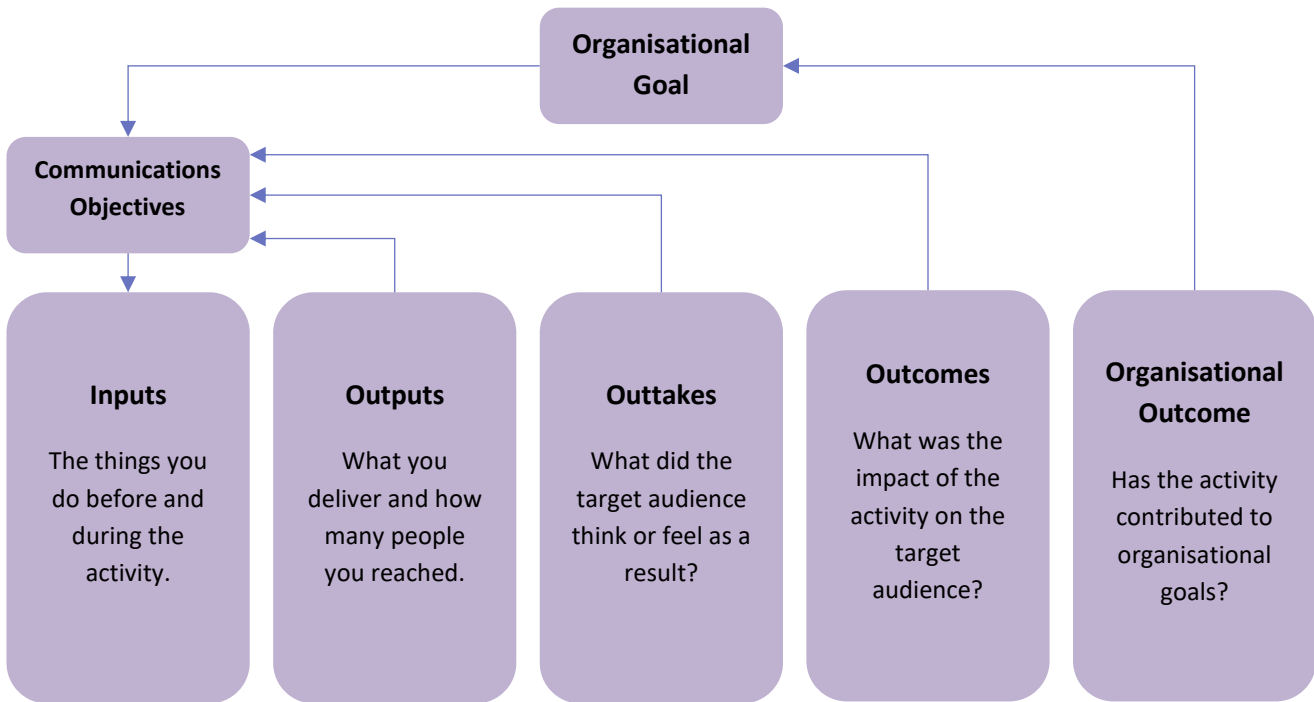
- **Establish expectations for the different roles – most of these points apply to both online and offline events:**

The Chair	The Speakers	The Audience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the ground rules • Be authoritative • Treat all participants fairly • Be inclusive and give everybody a chance to speak - avoid one or two voices dominating the discussion • Know when it is time to move on • Take it offline if necessary • Remember the waiting room, and let people in! • Ensure Q&A from each source (e.g. Slido, video, chat bar) are addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be passionate, engaging and knowledgeable • Have videos on for virtual events • For longer presentations, consider slides or visual aids - but don't just read from them • Well-briefed on potential sensitivities (including local considerations) and appropriateness of content (e.g. does it need a warning?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about the build-up to the event • Can they be engaged beforehand? • Accept pre-submitted questions • Consider guided questions to aid discussion • Can you create moments for all to participate, e.g. through polls, chat function, raising hands • Ensure feedback is collected

- **How would you like the Q&A session to run?** Most online platforms have a chat function where participants can ask questions, but it can quickly get crowded if lots of people have dialled in, making it difficult for the Chair to keep track. You should also consider whether attendees are likely to want to ask questions anonymously.
 - We recommend an online polling platform, such as using Sli.do, or other similar software. Sli.do allows guests to upvote questions, helping the most common queries to get answered, and allows hosts to monitor questions coming in. Participants may also wish to remain anonymous when asking questions, which a chat box doesn't allow. **If you need a Sli.do login, please get in touch with PreventCommunications@homeoffice.gov.uk.**
 - For an online event, paste your Sli.do link and code into the chat box and ask participants to ask questions there. You can post regular reminders throughout the meeting if necessary, and include the link in event invitations if you would like to give attendees the option of submitting questions in advance.
- **Remember to evaluate your meeting, just like you would in-person.** In addition to sending out a link to participants afterwards, consider sharing the evaluation form through Sli.do and allowing for an extra five minutes to allow guests to fill it in as the meeting takes place – you're likely to get more returns this way and it reduces the amount of follow up work you will need to do.

Evaluating your event

After you've held your event, it's important to measure it against the objectives you set out at the very beginning so you can judge how to adapt and improve for next time. You may wish to consider evaluating your event using the below framework:



So, to take our original example, which was to *raise awareness about the linkages between mental health and vulnerability to radicalisation amongst safeguarding leads in 15 local schools*, here you could take a look at measures such as:

- How many people attended the session? Were they from our target audience? Was there representation from all 15 schools, or were some not engaged?
- After asking for their feedback, have they reported an increased understanding of the links between mental health and vulnerability to radicalisation? Is this understanding spread equally across all 15 schools, or might some need some follow up?
- Will this increased understanding impact the safeguarding leads' behaviour as they go about their duties? Do they know what to do with this information?
- How has this contributed to Prevent delivery in the local area and within my team?

Collecting attendees' feedback

We encourage everyone to collect feedback from attendees after holding an event and ask that all feedback is shared with us – this is not used to judge individual events but rather to evaluate impact across the country and over time. It also ensures events are captured if the Home Office are not present, demonstrating a commitment to engagement which will be reflected in quarterly performance monitoring. It's always best to circulate the form as soon after the event as

possible, or even while it's still running (e.g. by circulating it through Sli.do) – participants are more likely to fill it in that way.

Supplementary content

Prevent videos

We have created a brief, five minute 'Introduction to Prevent' video that can be played at community roundtable events, which explains what the programme is and why it is so important through the voices of those that have come into contact with Prevent. The video can be found online on [YouTube](#), and we are also able to share copies via [Google Drive](#) (this link will take you to the videos)..

There are also shorter edits of the Prevent introductory video, focussing on education, healthcare, friends and family and extreme right-wing terrorism. These edits can also be downloaded through [Google Drive](#).

Case studies

We have a number of case studies from a breadth of ideologies; and CSO work, which can be used for presentations. Please get in contact with PreventCommunications@homeoffice.gov.uk for a copy.

Prevent FAQs

There are some widespread misconceptions surrounding Prevent, which do not reflect what the Prevent strategy aims to do or how it works. Some of these are outlined below, with possible responses suggested to provide more accurate context and information. *Statistics are generally updated on an annual basis, so make sure to check for the latest releases when using these lines.*

Isn't Prevent a toxic brand? Why should communities trust it?

Prevent, like any policy, isn't perfect – the challenges it is seeking to address are complex and shifting. We want to do the best we can to engage locally, communicate more effectively and be more transparent about the programme. We haven't historically done a good enough job, and awareness about the programme is generally low.

But Prevent is also subject to unfair and inaccurate media reporting and campaigning, which can create a tension between how people understand the programme locally and how it works in reality. Prevent works in a similar way to other safeguarding programmes; Channel is confidential and voluntary, it doesn't target any one community. Since 2012, almost 3,000 people have been adopted to Prevent's voluntary and confidential Channel programme, which supports people who are considered to be vulnerable to exploitation from terrorist influences.

And despite reporting that suggests this, Prevent isn't a 'toxic brand'. 58% of people who are aware of Prevent feel favourably towards it – compared with just 8% who feel unfavourably. That number rises the more we tell people about the programme, which is why community engagement is so vital. Getting out there, explaining what Prevent is and how it works, is a

really important way we can help people understand Prevent and protect people who are vulnerable.

Does the Prevent strategy target Muslims?

Prevent does not target a specific faith or ethnic group - it deals with all forms of terrorism, including extreme right-wing, mixed, unclear or unstable ideologies, and left-wing, anarchist, and single-issue (LASI). Prevent simply seeks to ensure that individuals who are identified as at-risk of radicalisation are offered support. Although extreme right-wing terrorism is a significantly growing threat, currently the greatest threat still comes from terrorist recruiters inspired by Daesh and Al Qa'ida.

Anyone who is deemed to be at risk of any type of radicalisation can receive support from Channel. In 2019/20, almost half of those who were adopted as Channel cases were related to extreme right-wing radicalisation (43%, or 302 individuals), more than those related to Daesh and Al Qa'ida-inspired radicalisation (30%, or 210 individuals).

Is Prevent doing enough to tackle Far-Right extremism?

Prevent is implemented in a proportionate manner that takes into account the level of risk in any given area or institution. In some areas the risk of extreme right-wing terrorism may be significant and Prevent activity will therefore focus on this threat – including protecting those most likely to be vulnerable to it. In 2019/20, 697 individuals were adopted as a Channel case. Of these, 43% were referred for concerns related to right-wing radicalisation.

Why has the number of Prevent referrals related to a mixed/unclear/unstable ideology increased?

The total number of referrals discussed at a Channel panel and adopted as a Channel case for individuals with a mixed, unstable or unclear ideology increased substantially by 680% (45 to 351) and 535% (20 to 127) from 2018/19 to 2019/20.

This is likely due to a formal recognition of this type of concern by Policing and the Home Office. Guidance around this category was shared with multi-agency partners in 2019 to help them recognise broader radicalisation concerns, where individuals showed an interest in violence, without a clear ideological attachment.

Will you consider a rebrand of Prevent?

We recognise that there is some misunderstanding about what Prevent aims to do and how it functions in practice, which does not accurately reflect the reality of its work. This includes inaccurate media reporting and, often, the spreading of false stories about Prevent by individuals and organisations who seek to undermine the work Prevent is doing to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals.

However, Prevent is effective in its purpose of safeguarding people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Since being launched in 2011, Prevent training has been completed over a million times to enable frontline practitioners, including teachers, to recognise the signs of

radicalisation so that they know what steps to take, including, where appropriate, how to make a referral.

We are also making the programme more transparent. We now publish data on Prevent and Channel referrals to increase transparency and understanding, and we will continue to do so on an annual basis. We will also continue to hold engagement events, and invite local communities around the country to learn more about Prevent and discuss and offer their views on the programme.

Does Prevent encourage spying?

No. There is nothing in law, in the guidance, or in any form of training that requires, authorises, or encourages any form of spying whatsoever in connection with the Prevent Duty. The Prevent Duty does not require teachers to spy on pupils or to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life. It is about ensuring that teachers know how to identify concerns and how to refer pupils who may be at-risk of radicalisation for appropriate support.

Does being on the Channel programme mean you get a criminal record?

Channel is completely confidential and voluntary. Being referred to or supported by Channel is not any form of criminal sanction; Channel is a safeguarding programme and not a programme to further an investigation. It will have no bearing on a person's education or career prospects.

Is Prevent an outlier in terms of referral numbers versus cases, compared with other safeguarding processes?

Compared with other safeguarding services, Prevent makes up an extremely small percentage of overall safeguarding referrals, but for all safeguarding processes, including Prevent, the number of referrals outnumber the number of cases taken on. This is true across the safeguarding system, because after consideration by a local multi-agency safeguarding panel many referrals either require no further action, or are signposted to support elsewhere, such as mental health services.

As the quality of referrals improves, a greater proportion are progressing into Channel - in 2019-20, only 27% of Prevent referrals required no further action, which is less than the proportion of Child Safeguarding referrals (36.5%) with this outcome.

Over half (57%) of Prevent referrals not adopted as a case are signposted elsewhere in the safeguarding system – meaning that although these individuals are determined to not be in need of support for radicalisation, the multi-agency panel has determined that they do need help for other safeguarding concerns, which can be best managed through another appropriate safeguarding service. Sometimes, for example, a solution is rooted in social care, even though the referral initially presented as a radicalisation concern.

Isn't the Prevent Duty an attack on freedom of speech in universities?

The right to free speech and protest are cornerstones of British democracy, which the Government is committed to protecting. Universities in particular represent one of the most

important arenas for challenging extremist views and ideologies. The Prevent strategy in no way, shape or form undermines this commitment.

In 2019, the Government published guidance to help protect and enhance free speech on campus, to ensure they remain forums for open and robust enquiry. The Prevent Duty explicitly requires further and higher education institutions to have regard to their duty to secure freedom of speech and to have particular regard to the importance of academic freedom.

How do you assess whether projects are effective in tackling radicalisation?

Evaluations are commissioned centrally by the Home Office to assess how projects are meeting Prevent delivery objectives. Local authorities who lead on commissioning projects also have internal processes that manage project delivery against local risks and threats through regular project meetings, gathering of data and narrative reports. Prospective bidders are expected to clearly describe their capability and capacity to delivery Prevent objectives. Outlining their relevant experience, track record and success in safeguarding vulnerable people as well as working within the Counter Terrorism space.

Is there a link between mental health and radicalisation?

Research on individuals who have engaged with terrorist activity demonstrates that there is no single socio-demographic profile or pathway that leads an individual to become involved in terrorism. Susceptibility to radicalisation depends on complex interactions between different risk factors.

There should be no assumption that an individual who carries out a terrorist act is suffering mental ill health, nor that someone with poor mental health is likely to carry out a terrorist act.

What is the Desistance and Disengagement Programme (DDP)?

DDP offers a range of intensive, tailored interventions and practical support designed to tackle the drivers of radicalisation and enable those engaged in terrorism and/or terrorism related activity to desist and disengage. It is delivered with a range of partners and agencies, including the police, Ministry of Justice, and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, as well as academics and organisations outside of government.

The programme runs alongside existing statutory risk assessment and management processes to ensure it bolsters and complements work being done through existing frameworks. It is not a replacement for any police investigation or prosecution response to individuals who have committed terrorism offences, either abroad or at home.

Next steps

We hope this will be a useful document and assists in planning your next community engagement event. We are always interested to hear your feedback and are available for any further support you need in setting up a programme of community engagement in your area – whether that's further resources, advice on who to invite to your first community event,

gathering feedback or suggestions of topics to discuss. Please get in touch with PreventCommunications@HomeOffice.gov.uk where necessary.

We look forward to attending your community engagement events across the country, to help build on local understanding of Prevent and encourage further support for this important programme.

Annex A: Community Feedback Form

Thank you for participating in the event and evaluation survey, your participation is both valued and important. These questions are to help us understand the usefulness of this event workshop so that we can improve the content and structure for future events. Please do not include your name in the survey, your responses are and will remain anonymous and confidential.

1. What is your gender? Please tick one box.

Male

Female

Prefer not to say

2. What is your age? Please tick one box.

0 – 14 years

15 – 24 years

25 – 34 years

35 – 44 years

45 – 54 years

55 – 64 years

65 years and over

Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents the sector you currently work in? Please tick one box.

Charity

Health

Faith

Education (Primary/ Secondary/ Further)

Student

Private Sector

Education (Academic / Lecturer)

Retired

Unemployed

Social Care

Homemaker

Prefer not to say

Government and Public Administration

Police and Crime

Other (please state) _____

4. How did you hear about today's event? Please tick one box.

Local authority/council website

Facebook or Twitter

Noticeboard

Leaflet

Email

Phone call

Word of mouth

Other (please state) _____

5. How interesting did you find the event you just attended? Please tick one box.

Very interesting

Interesting

Uninteresting

Very uninteresting

Don't know

6. Would you recommend attending this kind of event to a friend or family member? *Please tick one box.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

7. (If video was played) Do you feel the video played during the session increased your understanding of Prevent? *Please tick one box.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

8. How would you rate your knowledge and understanding of:	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very Good	Don't know
a. The Prevent programme <u>BEFORE</u> today's event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The Prevent programme <u>AFTER</u> today's event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. How would you describe your opinion of:	Very negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Very positive	Don't know
a. The Prevent programme <u>BEFORE</u> today's event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The Prevent programme <u>AFTER</u> today's event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Which element of the event did you find most interesting? *Please tick one box.*

- Presentation
- Networking
- Meeting local Prevent Co-ordinator or local authority representative
- Q&A with Home Office representative (if applicable)
- Video (if applicable)
- Group discussion

Annex B: Useful Resources

- [COVID-19 communications: Community engagement and local democracy | Local Government Association](#)
- [Slido - Audience Interaction Made Easy](#)
- [Video conferencing services: using them securely - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)
- [Remote Council Meetings: Video conferencing and audio platforms | Local Government Association](#)
- [The surprising secret to speaking with confidence | Caroline Goyder | TEDxBrixton - YouTube](#)
- [How to Keep Attendees Engaged During Virtual Events – Eventbrite](#)
- [How to Run a Great Virtual Meeting \(hbr.org\)](#)
- [How to avoid death By PowerPoint | David JP Phillips | TEDxStockholmSalon - YouTube \(google.co.uk\)](#)
- [How to avoid 'death by PowerPoint' - BBC News](#) (NB: sometimes attendees will ask for slides after the event has finished. If this is the case and they are suitable for sharing, you may wish to make them longer than this article, and the TEDx talk above, suggest).