

Prevent Duty Policy and Procedure

Essex Educare Ltd.

Policy Ref: EE/CTSA/PD/001

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Statutory Basis: Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, Section 26

1. Introduction and Statutory Context

1.1 Purpose

This policy sets out the commitment of Essex Educare Ltd. to the Prevent Duty, which is one of the four key elements of the government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST (Protect, Prepare, Pursue, **Prevent**).

1.2 Statutory Duty

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) places a duty on specified authorities, including schools and registered childcare providers, to have “**due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.**”

Essex Educare Ltd. recognises that protecting individuals from the risk of radicalisation is a core part of its established safeguarding responsibilities, as set out in statutory guidance, including *Keeping Children Safe in Education*.

1.3 Scope

This policy applies to all staff (including permanent, temporary, and contracted staff), volunteers, Governors/Directors, students, and any visitors or third-party workers who engage with the company's services or premises.

2. Key Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat of terrorism to the UK by stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Essex Educare Ltd. will achieve its duty through the following objectives:

1. **Challenge:** Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat posed by those who promote it.
2. **Intervene:** Prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given

appropriate advice and support (e.g., through the Channel programme).

3. **Partnership:** Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that need to be addressed.

3. Principles of Compliance

To ensure compliance with the Prevent Duty, Essex Educare Ltd. commits to the following four key themes, as outlined in the statutory guidance:

3.1. Risk Assessment

The company will undertake a local and organisational risk assessment to determine the level of risk within the setting. This assessment will:

- Demonstrate a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the local Essex area.
- Be reviewed annually, or following any significant local or national event.
- Inform the training requirements and internal procedures.

3.2. Partnership and Multi-Agency Working

Essex Educare Ltd. will work in partnership with relevant external agencies to ensure effective Prevent delivery. This includes:

- Liaising with the local authority's Prevent Co-ordinator and the Police.
- Co-operating with the multi-agency **Channel** panel process where an individual has been referred for support.
- Ensuring the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) attends relevant local safeguarding forums.

3.3. Staff Training and Capabilities

All staff must understand the risks of radicalisation and know how to identify and refer concerns. The company will ensure:

- All staff complete a recognized level of general Prevent awareness training (e.g., the Home Office's 'Prevent Duty Training' or 'ACT Early').
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and relevant senior leaders receive enhanced, specialist training.
- Training is refreshed regularly and is mandatory for new staff as part of induction.

3.4. Promoting Fundamental British Values (FBV)

A key part of preventing radicalisation is building individual resilience. Essex Educare Ltd. will actively promote FBV throughout its curriculum and ethos to create a safe space for discussion and critical thinking. These values are:

- **Democracy:** Promoting participation and understanding of decision-making processes.
- **The Rule of Law:** Ensuring consistency, fairness, and understanding the civil and criminal laws of England.
- **Individual Liberty:** Encouraging self-knowledge, self-esteem, and confidence, and respecting the freedom of choice within a supportive environment.
- **Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs:** Promoting respect for all cultures, faiths, and lifestyles and challenging discriminatory or extremist views.

4. Procedures for Identifying and Managing Concerns

4.1. Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the company's primary point of contact for all safeguarding concerns, including those related to radicalisation. The DSL is responsible for leading the implementation of this policy.

Designated Safeguarding Lead for Prevent: Tashik Uzzaman, and Email: tashik@eeducare.org.uk

4.2. Identification of Vulnerability

Staff should be alert to changes in behaviour that could indicate an individual is being drawn into extremist ideas. Indicators of vulnerability are not proof of radicalisation but should trigger a safeguarding concern. These may include:

- Isolation or withdrawal from peers/family.
- Sudden and extreme changes in appearance, behaviour, or personal views.
- Expressing extremist views or rhetoric that justifies terrorist violence or hatred.
- Inappropriate use of digital media to access or share extremist material.
- Secretive behaviour, especially concerning internet use or specific affiliations.

4.3. Referral Process

Any concern regarding radicalisation must be treated as a high-priority safeguarding issue:

1. **Inform the DSL:** Staff must immediately report any concerns regarding an individual's vulnerability to radicalisation to the DSL, using the internal safeguarding reporting procedure.
2. **DSL Assessment:** The DSL will record the concern and assess the information using professional judgement, referring to the company's wider safeguarding policy.
3. **External Referral (Channel):** If the DSL determines that the individual is at risk of being drawn into terrorism, a formal referral will be made to the local authority or police Channel process. This is a voluntary, multi-agency approach that provides support tailored to the individual's needs.

4. **Information Sharing:** The company will share information with appropriate partners (e.g., Police, Local Authority Social Services) only when it is necessary, proportionate, and lawful to prevent a person from being drawn into terrorism or to protect the vital interests of the person concerned or another.

5. Internet Safety and ICT Policy

Essex Educare Ltd. ensures its IT policies support the Prevent Duty by:

- Implementing **suitable filtering systems** to prevent staff and students from accessing terrorist and extremist material online while on company networks.
- Educating users on digital citizenship, critical thinking, and online safety, ensuring they are equipped to challenge extremist propaganda they may encounter elsewhere.
- Monitoring ICT usage in line with legal requirements to detect attempts to access inappropriate content.