

Prevent

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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out the obligations of all employees and any contractors working on behalf of Open Awards whose work brings them in to contact with children or adults in line with the Prevent Agenda scheme. Prevent is the national strategy which aims to safeguard vulnerable individuals (both adults and children) who may be at risk of potentially becoming involved in terrorist activities. It is part of the umbrella of safeguarding responsibilities and therefore everybody's concern. It also aims to support institutions, such as schools, colleges and universities where this may happen. As an organisation, we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe, and we are committed to operating and performing in a way that protects them.

This policy is designed to:

- prevent radicalisation or extremism from taking place
- ensure everyone at Open Awards understands their role and responsibilities in respect of Prevent and prevents people from being drawn into terrorism.
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of Terrorism or persons who are vulnerable to Terrorism.
- ensures that Open Awards staff are aware and undertake appropriate training and learning opportunities to better understand their role and responsibility and where and how to refer children and adults for help.

It is the responsibility of Open Awards providers and employers who meet the government criteria to have in place a 'prevent' policy for their learners/apprentices and to adhere to the government published guidelines on Prevent.

It is the responsibility of Open Awards to ensure that all staff employed by Open Awards (including contractors and Trustees), are fully aware of prevent duties and to undertake prevent training, further details which are outlined in this policy.

Scope

This document is applicable for the following Open Awards products and services:

Ofqual regulated qualifications and units, including apprenticeship assessment	☒
Qualification Wales regulated qualifications and units	☒
Access to HE Diplomas	☒
Non-regulated provision, including Quality Endorsed Courses, Badge of Excellence and Micro-credentials	☒

Regulatory Authorities

The relevant regulatory authorities are the Charity Commission, Ofqual, Qualification Wales, Quality Assurance Agency for HE (QAA), Skills England and the Department for Education.

Every attempt has been made to ensure that the provisions of this document are consistent with the requirements of the regulatory authorities. Where the requirements of a regulatory authority change, or where inadvertently these procedures conflict with those of the regulatory authority, the latter shall apply.

Where the requirements of the regulatory authority are amended and require changes to this document, such changes will be made as soon as practicable and Open Awards will inform providers accordingly.

Audience

This document is for use by the following:

- Open Awards staff
- Open Awards Trustees
- External Quality Assurers
- Moderators
- External Contractors
- Open Awards approved providers
- Apprenticeship training providers who are delivering apprenticeship training to apprentices who will be undertaking apprenticeship assessment through Open Awards
- Employers of apprentices who will be undertaking apprenticeship assessment through Open Awards

Definitions

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) places a duty on certain bodies, which include education providers (“specified authorities” listed in Schedule 6 to the Act), in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

This is extended to Employers when working with apprentices, and Open Awards as the apprenticeship assessment organisation, end-point assessing apprentices.

Safeguarding is the process of protecting all people and those with enhanced vulnerability, whether from crime, other forms of abuse or from being drawn into terrorism-related activity.

Vulnerability describes factors and characteristics associated with being susceptible to radicalisation. There is no single profile of a terrorist or violent extremist.

Increased vulnerabilities include:

- Substance and alcohol misuse
- Peer pressure
- Bullying
- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- Domestic violence
- Family tensions
- Race/hate crime
- Mental health issues
- Lack of self-esteem or identity
- Grievances (personal or political)
- Migration.

Extremism

The Government has defined extremism 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". This also includes calls for the death of members of the British armed forces.

An **ideology** is a set of beliefs.

Terrorism

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.

Radicalisation

People can be drawn into violence or they can be exposed to the messages of extremist groups by many means. The risk of radicalisation is the product of a number of factors and identifying this risk requires that staff exercise their professional judgement, seeking further advice as necessary. It may be combined with other vulnerabilities or may be the only risk identified. Potential indicators include:

- Use of inappropriate language
- Possession of violent extremist literature
- Behavioural changes
- The expression of extremist views
- Advocating violent actions and means
- Association with known extremists
- Seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology

Channel is a multi-agency approach to safeguarding, supporting and protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk of radicalisation, extremism or terrorist related activity.

British Values are Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect, Tolerance and Individual Liberty.

CONTEST

CONTEST is the name of the United Kingdom's counter-terrorism strategy. It was first developed by the Home Office in early 2003, and a revised version was made publicly available in 2006. Further revisions were published on 24 March 2009 and, most recently, on 11 July 2011. The aim of the strategy is "to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence."

CONTEST is split into four work streams that are known within the counter-terrorism community as the 'four P's': Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Prepare

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains powers to help the UK respond to the threat of terrorism.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/contents>

Four P's

Pursue:	To stop terrorist attacks
Prevent:	To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
Protect:	To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
Prepare:	To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

Threat Levels

1. Critical -an attack is expected imminently
2. Severe - an attack is highly likely
3. Substantial - an attack is a strong possibility
4. Moderate - an attack is possible but not likely
5. Low - an attack is unlikely

Prevent Strategy launched in 2007 seeks to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism both in the UK and overseas.

The threat we face from terrorism is real, and the Prevent Strategy recognises that we can't arrest our way out of the problem. The Prevent Strategy therefore aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The focus of Prevent is on the significant threat posed by international terrorism and those in the UK who are inspired by it. But it is also concerned with reducing threats, risks and vulnerabilities posed by domestic extremists such as those from the far right and far left extreme animal rights activists and those involved in Northern Irish related terrorism.

Prevent is supported by three objectives:

- Responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it (ideology)
- Preventing people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support (individuals)
- Working with sectors and institutions such as education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address (institutions)

Indicators of Abuse

Factors suggesting the need for investigation

It is important to be aware of indicators of abuse. The presence of one or more of these doesn't necessarily mean that a person at risk is being abused. However, they may reflect the potential for abuse in a given situation and suggest the need for further investigation.

- spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists;
- changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group;
- their day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred around an extremist ideology, group or cause;
- loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause;
- possession of material or symbols associated with an extremist cause (e.g. the swastika for far right groups);
- attempts to recruit others to the group/cause/ideology; or
- communications with others that suggest identification with a group/cause/ideology.

Policy Statement

PREVENT is the responsibility of everyone involved in their training and apprenticeship assessment.

It is the responsibility of the employers and training providers to have in place a 'prevent' policy for their apprentices and to adhere to the government published guidelines on prevent: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-further-education-institutions-in-england-and-wales>

The training provider is also required to maintain a continuing duty of care for the apprentice as they progress through end-point assessment (Conditions for end-point assessment organisations section 7 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conditions-for-being-on-the-register-of-end-point-assessment-organisations#gateway-review>).

It is the responsibility of Open Awards to ensure that all staff employed by Open Awards, are fully aware of prevent duties and to undertake prevent training, further details are provided in the following sections.

Delivering Prevent at Open Awards

The Designated Safeguard Lead is the key person responsible for overseeing Prevent as part of the wider Safeguarding policy and associated procedures.

We expect all staff and assessors to exemplify British values in their management, assessment, and general, and encourage respect for other people, with particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Open Awards maintain close communication with employers and training providers to ensure this ethos and commitment is shared as it is crucial for all partners to be involved in the Prevent strategy.

Approved providers are required to have Safeguarding and Prevent policies and associated procedures in place. This is confirmed through due diligence checks as part of the provider approval and assured through ongoing compliance and quality assurance activities.

All staff have a responsibility to make sure that they:

- have undertaken training in the Prevent Duty as identified by their management <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/> as part of their Induction and refreshed every 2 years by Open Awards.
- have read and understood this policy, alongside the policies lists in the introduction
- have had a DBS check (as appropriate)
- are aware of when it is appropriate to refer concerns about apprentices to the Prevent officer, usually the training provider's Safeguarding officer
- exemplify British values of "democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs" into their practice

In order to achieve these objectives, Our PREVENT Policy focuses on four areas:

1. Leadership and Values

To provide an ethos which upholds core values of shared responsibility and wellbeing for all apprentices, 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/apprentice voice and participation
- Building staff and learner/apprentice understanding of the issues and confidence to deal with them
- Deepening engagement with local communities
- Actively working with local schools, training providers, local authorities, police and other agencies.

An important part of Prevent, is also the promotion of British values. These are the norms that shape our society and which are enshrined in law, through legislation such as the Equality Act 2010.

British values are described as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect
- Tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs

Learners and apprentices are encouraged to explore ideas in a context where these values are recognised and respected.

Prevent duty must be implemented in a proportionate and fair manner, ensuring it does not stifle legitimate debate or academic freedom, and is balanced with Open Awards' responsibilities under the Human Rights Act and Equality Act.

2. Assessment

To provide an assessment environment that embeds equality, diversity and inclusion, wellbeing and community cohesion, and to encourage the learner/apprentice voice.

3. Learner/Apprentice Support during assessment

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 assessment guidance and information
- Listening to what is happening at employers, providers and in the community
- Implementing anti-bullying strategies and challenging discriminatory behaviour
- Helping learners/apprentices and staff know how to access support at assessment, and / or through community partners
- Supporting at-risk learners/apprentices through safeguarding and crime prevention processes if that support is not available from their provider
- Ensure fair access to, and provision of, reasonable adjustments

4. Managing Risks and Responding to Events

To ensure we monitor risks and are ready to deal appropriately with issues which arise. We will do this through:

- Understanding the nature of the threat from violent extremism and how this may impact directly or indirectly on us
- Understanding and managing potential risks within Open Awards
- Training
- Responding appropriately to events in local, national or international news that may impact on apprentices
- Ensuring measures are in place to minimise the potential for acts of violent extremist within our services, such as, safeguarding
- Ensuring plans are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident within Open Awards
- Using effective IT security and responsible user policies

Reporting

If an employee or contractor of Open Awards have a reason to believe that this policy has been contravened, they must report this to their line manager or department head in line with our safeguarding procedure.

If an employee or contractor of Open Awards attending an Open Awards event has reason to believe that this policy has been contravened, they must report this to their line manager, department head or the Designated Safeguarding Officer.

Open Awards will support staff who raise concerns, ensuring we deal with them sensitively and confidentially.

The Designated Safeguard Lead or Senior Manager does not need consent to share information about a child, young person or vulnerable adult who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

Channel is part of the Prevent Strategy. It's a multi-agency partnership which identifies and supports individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Where a concern about an individual has been identified, partner agencies can discuss a concern or make a referral to the Channel Panel by completing the referral form.

Each local authority will have a referral form process which can be accessed via their website.

Confidentiality

Open Awards is committed to maintaining confidentiality wherever possible and information collected in line with the policy being contravened should be shared only with those who need to know.

All allegations/concerns will be recorded centrally at Open Awards in line with the safeguarding policy and reporting procedures.

All information must be factual and not based on opinions.

The information that is recorded will be kept securely with restricted access and will comply with Data Protection Regulations.

Breaches of this Policy

We take a strict approach to breaches of this policy, which will be dealt with in accordance with our Disciplinary Procedure. Cases of deliberate discrimination may amount to gross misconduct resulting in dismissal.

Whistleblowing

Whistleblowers are protected by the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. The Act protects public, private and voluntary sector workers from victimisation in employment following a disclosure which fits into certain criteria, (see Whistleblowing Policy).

You would always be expected to try and address a safeguarding issue by following Open Awards' Safeguarding policy and procedure. You should report safeguarding concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Line Manager, in the first instance. If this is not satisfactory then you should report to a more senior manager and/or the Chief Executive. If this is not successful or there is a reason why you cannot do this, then you should refer to Open Awards' Whistleblowing policy

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or where guidance/best practice is updated.

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