



The Anthony Seddon Fund
Supporting mental wellbeing in our community

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Title:	PREVENT Policy
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Scope:	
This policy applies to all staff and volunteers of The Anthony Seddon Fund , including all staff and volunteers working within The Anthony Seddon Fund employed by other agencies.	
Purpose:	
The purpose of this document is to identify how staff will be supported to develop an understanding of the PREVENT policy and how they can utilise their existing knowledge and skills to understand that someone may have been or is being radicalised.	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No substantive changes required.• Updated document reference to reflect revised naming convention.• Updated Section 10 – Review to reflect the charity’s new tiered policy review cycle.	
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1. Introduction

CONTEST is the HM Government’s framework for countering all forms of terrorism. Its overarching strategy is to "reduce the risk to the UK and its citizens and interests overseas from terrorism, so that our people can go about their lives freely and with confidence." PREVENT is one of the four strands of this strategy, alongside PURSUE (stopping terrorist attacks), PROTECT (strengthening protection against attacks), and PREPARE (mitigating the impact of incidents that do occur).

PREVENT addresses all forms of terrorism, including Islamist, far-right, and other types of extremism, without focusing on any specific community. It works primarily through local partnerships to safeguard individuals at risk of radicalisation and to disengage those involved in extremist activities.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that staff and volunteers at The Anthony Seddon Fund understand the PREVENT strategy and are equipped to recognise the signs that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation. This policy also sets out how to escalate concerns and where to seek advice within the charity and from external agencies. It aligns closely with The Anthony Seddon Fund's safeguarding policies, as preventing someone from becoming involved in terrorism is akin to safeguarding them from other forms of exploitation, such as gang activity or abuse.

2. Definitions

Terrorism

An action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people, causes serious damage to property, or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat of such action must be designed to influence the government or intimidate the public and be carried out for political, religious, or ideological gain.

Radicalisation

The process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism, potentially leading them to engage in terrorist activities. Radicalisation can occur through various means, including social media, personal contacts, or exposure to extremist ideologies.

Extremism

Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different beliefs and faiths. Extremism can manifest in various forms, including religious, political, or social ideologies.

PREVENT

A strategy designed to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism. PREVENT works in conjunction with other safeguarding programs to address vulnerabilities and guide individuals away from radicalisation.

Vulnerability

A person's susceptibility to extremist messages or influences, making them more likely to be drawn into terrorism or to support terrorism at some point in time. Vulnerabilities can stem from various factors, such as isolation, identity issues, or personal grievances.

Channel

A multi-agency process that provides support to individuals identified as being at risk of radicalisation. The Channel programme works alongside safeguarding professionals to offer tailored interventions to reduce the risk of radicalisation.

Safeguarding

The process of protecting vulnerable individuals from abuse, exploitation, or harm, including radicalisation. Safeguarding in the context of PREVENT is about identifying and addressing risks that may make someone vulnerable to extremism.

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

This legislation places a duty on specified authorities, including educational institutions and charities, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

3. The Process of Exploitation

Vulnerabilities that may make someone susceptible to radicalisation can stem from a variety of factors, including:

- **Peer Pressure:** Influence from friends, family, or social groups that encourage extreme views or actions.
- **Online Influence:** Exposure to extremist content via social media, websites, or online communities.
- **Bullying or Victimisation:** Experiencing bullying or hate crime, including race-related or other forms of discrimination, can lead to feelings of isolation or anger.
- **Involvement in Crime or Anti-Social Behaviour:** Engaging in or being a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour can increase a person's vulnerability to extremist ideologies.
- **Family Tensions:** Disputes or breakdowns in family relationships can lead to emotional distress and increase vulnerability.
- **Identity Issues:** A lack of self-esteem, self-identity, or a sense of belonging can create a desire to seek purpose or validation from extremist groups.
- **Personal or Political Grievances:** Holding unresolved personal, political, or ideological grievances can make individuals more open to radicalisation.

While no direct link has been established between mental disorders and group-based terrorism, individuals who act alone (often referred to as "lone wolves") may be more likely to have a background that includes mental illness. This makes it essential to approach potential cases of radicalisation with sensitivity to the individual's overall mental health and wellbeing.

Radicalisers often use persuasive rhetoric and charismatic leadership to exploit individuals' vulnerabilities. These figures may distort history, politics, or religion to advance their agenda and attract individuals to their cause. As such, they can present a powerful narrative that resonates with those who are vulnerable.

It is crucial that all staff at The Anthony Seddon Fund are aware of the signs that someone may be at risk of being radicalised or drawn into terrorism. Staff must also understand how to access support and guidance to safeguard our customers effectively. This includes recognising changes in behaviour, expressing extreme views, or showing signs of isolation, and acting in line with safeguarding procedures.

4. Online

The internet is a powerful tool that terrorists and extremists exploit to radicalise, groom, and recruit vulnerable individuals, as well as incite and enable terrorist attacks. Extremist groups use a wide range of online platforms to communicate their ideology and spread propaganda to thousands of individuals. This has made the internet a central hub for radicalisation efforts.

Extremists leverage various online sources to spread their messages, including social media platforms, websites, and forums. They can reach large audiences through platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and encrypted messaging apps. The online environment allows extremists to engage with vulnerable individuals, build relationships, and promote violent ideologies, often in spaces that are difficult to monitor or regulate.

In addition to online activities, extremists may still use traditional methods, such as leafleting or in-person communication, but the rise of information technology has expanded their reach and influence. The anonymity and vast audience offered by the internet make it a particularly potent tool for radicalisation.

All staff and volunteers at The Anthony Seddon Fund should be vigilant and mindful of anyone who is frequently visiting extremist websites, chat rooms, or social media groups that promote violent ideologies. This may include content that glorifies armed conflicts, promotes hatred, or encourages violence.

If you are concerned that someone might be exposed to or involved in the radicalisation process, it is essential to report your concerns to the Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible. Early intervention can prevent further harm and ensure that vulnerable individuals receive the appropriate support.

5. The Anthony Seddon Fund Roles in PREVENT

As a frontline organisation working with vulnerable people, The Anthony Seddon Fund has a responsibility to safeguard not only our customers but also our staff and volunteers. Preventing radicalisation is a safeguarding duty, and it is vital to recognise that radicalisation is a process, not a one-off event. Some individuals may not fully understand what they are becoming involved in when being drawn towards extremist ideologies.

Utilising our knowledge of our customer base and fostering strong, trusting relationships with individuals is essential in identifying and safeguarding those who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. By doing so, we can provide timely interventions and support to protect individuals at risk.

The Anthony Seddon Fund has a duty to create safe environments where extremists cannot operate. All staff should be equipped with the knowledge and skills to recognise signs of vulnerability, not just in customers but also in colleagues, friends, and carers.

Factors to Consider

Radicalisation can be understood through a range of primary risks, secondary factors, and triggers that can increase or reduce the likelihood of someone being drawn into extremism. Understanding these factors can help staff to identify potential vulnerabilities and intervene appropriately.

Primary Risks	Secondary Factors (Make behaviour more or less likely)	Precipitating Factors (Triggers, Escalation)	Unknowns
<p>Problem Behaviours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct violence • Inciting or radicalising Others • Supporting extremism <p>Where is it a Problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online • Institutions • Communities <p>With Who?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online • Group • Lone <p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer gathering • Institutions etc. closed • More police or service people <p>Social Influences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency intensity of exposure to negative influences (direct/online) • Exposure to range of views (echo chamber) 	<p>Changes in Predisposing Factors Factors that make people more vulnerable (e.g., trauma, domestic violence, abuse)</p> <p>Changes in Perpetuating Factors Factors that keep vulnerability going (e.g., mental health, social isolation)</p> <p>Introduction or Absence of Protective Factors (e.g. support, jobs)</p> <p>Changes in Internal Controls Fewer things to lose, greater sense of responsibility, or external controls (e.g., less monitoring)</p>	<p>Emotional Distress</p> <p>Day-to-Day Stressors</p> <p>Transitions/Life changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of job/school • Bereavement <p>Competition for Resources</p> <p>Environmental Factors (e.g., deprivation, lack of stimulus, boredom)</p> <p>Relationship Factors (e.g., violence, conflict, separation_</p> <p>Issues Related to Status, Control, Identity, or Role</p> <p>Grievance</p> <p>Disinhibitors (e.g. substance misuse, withdrawal, poor mental health)</p>	<p>What's the Message Online?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New extremist narratives • Conspiracy theories • Scapegoating • Prejudice against certain groups • 'Them vs. Us' messaging <p>Impact on Society e.g. increased 'community spirit'</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to escape <p>Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More easily spotted if fewer people outside • Police attention elsewhere 			
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The Role of Staff

It is crucial for all staff at The Anthony Seddon Fund to:

- **Recognise the Signs:** Be aware of customers, staff, or volunteers who may exhibit signs of vulnerability to radicalisation, including increased isolation, exposure to extremist content, or expressing extreme views.
- **Support Vulnerable Individuals:** Know how to refer individuals who may be at risk to the appropriate safeguarding teams or external agencies for further support.
- **Foster Safe Environments:** Create spaces where extremists are unable to influence vulnerable individuals and encourage open dialogue about concerns related to radicalisation or extremism.

If staff or volunteers suspect that someone may be at risk, they should report their concerns to the Safeguarding Lead, who will provide guidance on the appropriate next steps.

6. Raising PREVENT Concerns – Customers and Carers

If a staff member has concerns that a customer or carer may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism, has begun expressing radical extremist views, or is supporting violent extremism, it is crucial to take action promptly. Concerns may also arise if someone appears vulnerable to grooming or exploitation by others with extremist intentions.

Initial Contact

The primary point of contact for any concerns is your **Line Manager**, who will inform the **Safeguarding Lead**.

Documentation

It is essential to document your concerns in the customer's records. Include:

- A detailed description of the concerns.
- Any radical or extremist views expressed by the individual.

- Steps you have taken, including discussions with your Line Manager or Safeguarding Lead.
- Any outcomes or actions that have been decided upon.

Safeguarding Lead Support

The Safeguarding Lead will guide and support you in addressing the concerns and ensure that they are reported to the appropriate authorities. They will work with external agencies where necessary to provide additional safeguarding support.

Immediate Risk

If there is an immediate risk to the individual or others, contact the police by calling **999** immediately. Take any necessary actions to ensure the safety of the individual and others.

7. Confidentiality, Information Sharing, and Disclosure

Staff at The Anthony Seddon Fund must ensure that any information shared regarding safeguarding concerns, including those related to PREVENT, is done so both professionally and in compliance with legal obligations. The sharing of information must be proportionate, necessary, and relevant to the concerns identified.

Consent and PREVENT

- **Pre-Criminal Stage:** PREVENT operates at a pre-criminal stage, meaning the focus is on safeguarding vulnerable individuals rather than addressing criminal activities. Therefore, appropriate **consent** should be obtained from the individual before sharing any information about them, especially if it is not related to an immediate risk of harm.
- **Seeking Consent:** In most cases, staff should seek the individual's consent to share information. However, this must be done in a way that does not increase the individual's risk of harm or distress.

Exceptional Circumstances

- **Without Consent:** In **exceptional circumstances**, consent may not be required. This applies if:
 - Seeking consent would cause **immediate and significant harm** to the individual.
 - The individual **lacks the capacity** to give consent, based on the circumstances.
 - There is **evidence or concern** that the individual is involved in the **planning or undertaking of terrorist acts**. In such cases, information must be shared to manage the risk of a serious criminal offence without the individual's consent.

Legal Obligations

Where safeguarding concerns are present, especially regarding terrorism or radicalisation, the **duty of care** to protect the individual and others overrides the

need for consent in some cases. Information sharing must comply with the requirements of safeguarding policies, the Data Protection Act, and **GDPR**.

The Anthony Seddon Fund staff must always consider the balance between safeguarding individuals and maintaining confidentiality. If in doubt, staff should seek advice from the **Safeguarding Lead**.

8. Training

All staff and volunteers at The Anthony Seddon Fund are required to complete training on PREVENT as part of their safeguarding responsibilities. This training will ensure that all team members can recognise the signs of radicalisation and understand the steps to take if they have concerns about someone being drawn into terrorism.

- **Safeguarding E-Learning:** PREVENT training is included in the organisation's core safeguarding e-learning modules. All staff and volunteers must complete this training upon joining The Anthony Seddon Fund and regularly refresh their knowledge through additional e-learning as required.
- **Other Safeguarding Training:** In addition to e-learning, PREVENT will be included in all face-to-face safeguarding training sessions and annual safeguarding updates. Staff will be provided with case studies, scenarios, and best practices to help them apply their knowledge of PREVENT in real-world situations.
- **Ongoing Awareness:** Regular updates, briefings, and communications will be provided to staff regarding any changes to PREVENT guidance or best practices, ensuring staff remain well-informed.

9. Handling False Reports

The Anthony Seddon Fund is committed to ensuring that all concerns raised under the PREVENT policy are taken seriously and investigated appropriately. However, it is also important to handle false reports sensitively and fairly, ensuring that individuals are not unjustly stigmatised or discriminated against if a concern proves to be unfounded.

- **Investigation Process:** All reports will be assessed and investigated in line with safeguarding procedures. If a report is found to be false, appropriate measures will be taken to inform the individual(s) involved and clear any misunderstandings.
- **Protection of Individuals:** No individual will face any stigma or unjust treatment based on a false report. Staff will work to ensure that the person involved receives appropriate support if necessary and that no further concerns are raised without valid cause.

- **Learning from Reports:** Whether reports are confirmed or proven to be false, The Anthony Seddon Fund will seek to learn from each case, reviewing procedures to ensure they remain robust and fair, and preventing any future misunderstanding or misuse of the reporting process.

10. Review

This policy will be reviewed in line with The Anthony Seddon Fund's policy review cycle, which operates on a tiered system based on risk, relevance, and compliance need:

- **Tier 1** – Annual review (compliance-critical policies)
- **Tier 2** – Review every two years (operational or people-focused policies)
- **Tier 3** – Review every three years (low-risk or informational policies)

In addition to the scheduled cycle, this policy may also be reviewed earlier if:

- There are significant changes in legislation or best practice.
- Internal monitoring, feedback, or incidents indicate a review is necessary.
- Structural or operational changes within the charity affect its relevance or application.

Whether or not there were substantive changes, the version control section will display the date of the most recent review.