



Prevent Duty

*Safeguarding against
radicalisation and extremism*

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What is Prevent Duty?

- The Prevent Duty is part of the UK's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST.
- It aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- Under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, certain bodies (e.g. schools, NHS, local authorities) have a legal duty to prevent radicalisation.
- It's about safeguarding—protecting vulnerable individuals from exploitation.

Part of the UK's CONTEST strategy

- CONTEST is the UK's counter-terrorism strategy.

It's based on 4 themes:

- **prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks happening
- **protect:** to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- **prepare:** to minimise the impact of a terrorist attack
- Since the 2018 version of CONTEST, counter-terrorism efforts by the UK and allies have largely been successful in reducing risk by suppressing the most serious terrorist threats.

Legal obligation under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

- What is the prevent duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015?
- Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) places a duty on certain bodies (“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”.

Aims of the Prevent Duty

- Identify individuals at risk of radicalisation.
- Provide support before harm occurs.
- Promote shared values like democracy, rule of law, and mutual respect.
- Build resilience in communities against extremist ideologies

Identify and support those at risk of radicalisation

No single profile- There isn't a specific profile of someone who is at risk of radicalization. It's a complex process with various contributing factors.

Vulnerabilities- Factors like a sense of grievance, isolation, mental health issues, or exposure to extremist content online can increase susceptibility.

Behavioral changes- Changes in behavior, such as increased anger, isolation, or altered appearance, can be indicators.

Online activity- Increased engagement with extremist content online, including propaganda and violent rhetoric, is a serious concern.

Justifying violence- Expressing justification for violence to solve societal issues or using symbols associated with terrorist organizations are warning sign

Understanding Radicalisation


- Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism or extremist ideologies.
- It can happen gradually or quickly, and affect people of any age, background, or belief.

Influences may include:

- Personal grievances or identity struggles
- Peer pressure or group dynamics
- Online propaganda and echo chambers
- Exposure to extremist narratives




Definition of radicalisation



Radicalization is the process where an individual or group adopts increasingly extreme political, religious, or other ideological views, often leading to support for violence or terrorism. It involves a shift in beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors towards greater extremism.

Pathways to extremism

- Process, not an event- Radicalization is a journey, not a destination, and can take varying amounts of time.
- Ideological shift- It involves embracing increasingly extreme ideologies, which can be political, religious, or other belief systems.
- Support for violence- A key characteristic is the legitimization of violence or terrorism as a means to achieve ideological goals, according to Counter Terrorism Policing and the UK government.
- Personal and individual- Radicalization is a personal process, influenced by individual factors, experiences, and vulnerabilities, according to a document from Procedures Online.
- Vulnerability- Individuals may be drawn to extremist ideologies due to feelings of alienation, a search for belonging, or a desire for meaning and purpose



Factors that may contribute (e.g. identity crisis, peer pressure, online influence)

Several risk factors can make individuals more susceptible to radicalization.

These include experiencing a sense of grievance or injustice, feeling isolated or alienated, having low self-esteem or a lack of identity, and being easily influenced by others or extremist ideologies online.

Additionally, individuals with mental health issues, those who have experienced trauma, and those who are vulnerable due to age or disability may also be at higher risk

Internal factors

- Identity Crisis- Individuals struggling with their identity, cultural heritage, or place in society can be more vulnerable.
- Mental Health Issues- Conditions like depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges can make someone more susceptible.
- Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences- Past trauma, abuse, or neglect can create vulnerabilities that extremists may exploit.
- Low Self-Esteem and Lack of Belonging- Feeling inadequate or disconnected from others can make individuals more likely to seek validation and acceptance from extremist groups.
- Grievances and Perceived Injustice- A strong sense of injustice, whether real or perceived, can fuel resentment and a desire for retribution

External factors

- Influence from Others- Exposure to extremist ideologies, either directly or through online platforms, can normalize and encourage radical views.
- Social Isolation and Lack of Support- Feeling lonely or disconnected from family and friends can make individuals more vulnerable to the influence of extremist groups.
- Peer Pressure and Belonging- The desire to belong to a group and the pressure to conform to group norms can lead individuals to adopt extremist views.
- Online Extremist Material- Unsupervised or excessive exposure to extremist content online can normalize radical views and encourage individuals to engage with extremist narratives.
- Exposure to Extremist Groups- Direct interaction with extremist groups, either online or in person, can normalize their ideology and potentially lead to radicalization.
- Vulnerability Due to Age, Disability, or Abuse- Individuals who are vulnerable due to age, disability, or experiences of abuse or neglect may be more susceptible to manipulation and exploitation by extremist group

Recognising Signs of Concern

Behavioral changes

- **Social Isolation:** Withdrawing from family and friends, or changing their social circle to align with a new group.
- **Secrecy:** Becoming secretive, particularly about online activities, or being reluctant to discuss their views.
- **Increased Anger or Disrespect:** Exhibiting increased levels of anger, intolerance, or a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others.
- **Shift in Appearance:** Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to align with an extremist group or ideology.
- **Scripted Speech:** Talking as if from a script, or expressing views that sound rehearsed or adopted from another source.
- **Online Activity:** Spending excessive amounts of time online, particularly accessing extremist content, downloading propaganda, or engaging in discussions with extremist individuals or groups.
- **Interest in Extremist Material:** Showing a fascination with or actively seeking out extremist literature, symbols, or websites, according to Educate Against Hate.
- **Recruitment Attempts:** Attempting to recruit others to an extremist ideology or cause.

Expressing extremist views

- **Justifying Violence:** Expressing views that justify the use of violence to solve societal issues or problems.
- **"Us vs. Them" Mentality:** Using language that divides people into "us" and "them", often portraying an "out-group" negatively.
- **Sympathy for Extremist Groups:** Expressing sympathy or support for extremist ideologies, groups, or causes.
- **Advocating Violence:** Promoting or encouraging violent actions or means to achieve social or political change.
- **Conspiracy Theories:** Embracing conspiracy theories and distrusting mainstream media

Referral Process

Raising a concern and making a referral:

Speak to the DSL and Prevent lead at school- Danielle Doherty and she will support you.

- If you are worried someone you know is being radicalized, you can visit the ACT Early website or contact the national police Prevent advice line on 0800 011 3764 for advice.
- You can also use the National Prevent Referral Form (available online or from your local police/authority) to make a referral to the police.
- You can also contact your local council or police directly.

Assessment of the referral:

- The local police force reviews the referral to check for immediate security threats and assess the genuine risk of radicalisation.
- If no risk of radicalisation is identified, the individual may be referred to other services, such as mental health support or social services.

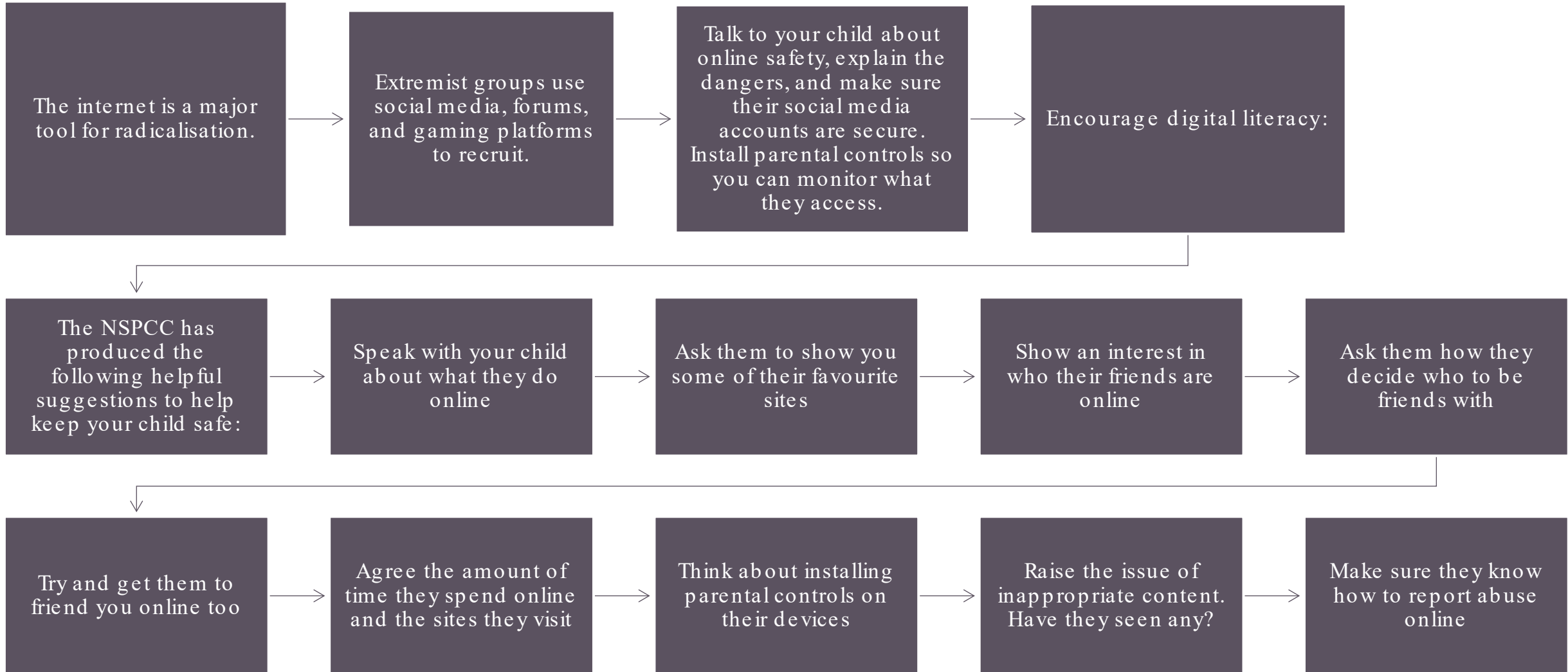
Channel panel assessment:


- If a risk of radicalisation is identified, a multi-agency panel of local experts, including the local authority, police, children's services, social services, and health professionals, assesses the referral.
- The panel considers factors like the individual's engagement with extremist ideologies, intent to cause harm, and capability to cause harm.

Channel support and intervention:

- If the panel decides the individual is at risk, they are invited to join the Channel support program, which is voluntary.
- If the individual consents, a tailored support package is developed to address their needs and vulnerabilities, which might include mentoring, counselling, education, or other forms of assistance.
- If the individual chooses not to participate in Channel, they may be offered other support options, and any risk of radicalisation will continue to be managed by the police

Online Safety and Extremism






Agree on some ground rules together. Consider the amount of time they are allowed to spend online, the websites they visit and the activities they take part in.

Parent Zone have guides on different social media and gaming platforms.

Internet service providers (ISPs), such as Virgin Media, TalkTalk, Sky or BT, provide parental controls for laptops, phones, tablets, game consoles and other devices that connect to the internet. Parental controls help you filter or restrict what your child can see online.

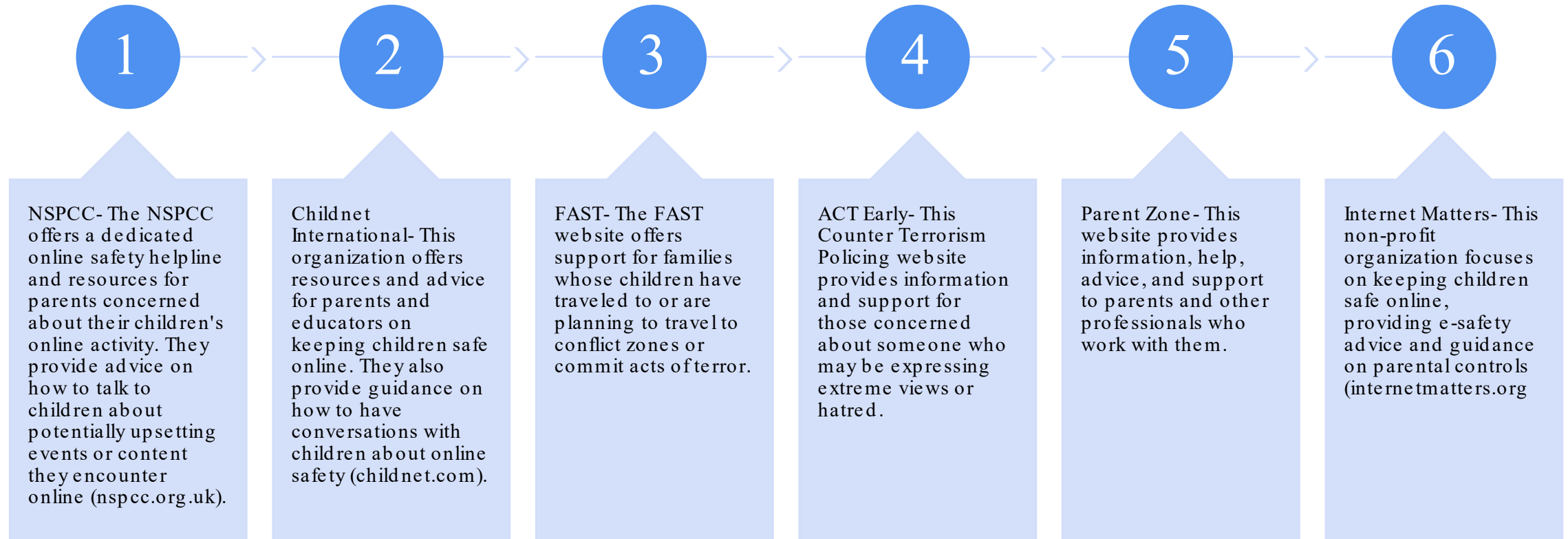
Check the privacy settings on your child's social media accounts to keep personal information private. Talk to them about what to do if they see worrying or upsetting content or if someone contacts them and makes them feel anxious or uncomfortable.



Many websites have tools to report abuse – make sure they know about these too.

There are some great websites to help you learn more about child online safety, such as Internet Matters, Safer Internet and Childnet. If you are concerned about something, you can call the NSPCC's online safety helpline on 0808 800 5002.

Support and Resources



Summary and Key Takeaways

Prevent is about safeguarding, not criminalising.

Radicalisation can affect anyone—early action matters.

Know how to report concerns.

Know the process of Prevent and Chanel

Promote inclusion, respect, and critical thinking.



Thank you for your ongoing support

For further support or questions,

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